緑の王

VERDANT LORD

9

マガジンZKC

原作／たかしげ宙　漫画／曽我篤士

緑の王 9

KCZ0427

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マガジンZKC

人類を襲った未曾有の大異変〝植物異常大繁殖(プラントバースト)〟が向かう、終焉とは……。

植物たちの次の可能性の模索は、ついに

アレトゥーサロケットと地上のドームを結ぶ、

軌道エレベーターを作り上げる。

人間すら作り得なかったシステムを巡り、

各国で起こる紛争。アメリカは〝行動する植物(アレトゥーサ)〟を

全滅せんと戦い、シンは〝行動する植物(アレトゥーサ)〟化したジミーと戦う。

最期まで人間として抗い生きるために……。

そして、ついに禁断の最終兵器「GESRI(ジェスリ)」が

地上の二種の王に裁きを下す!!

生き延びるのは、人類か? 植物達か?

今、世界に最後の審判が下される!!

マガジンZKC

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原作／たがしげ宙

漫画／曽我篤士

緑の王
VERDANT LORD
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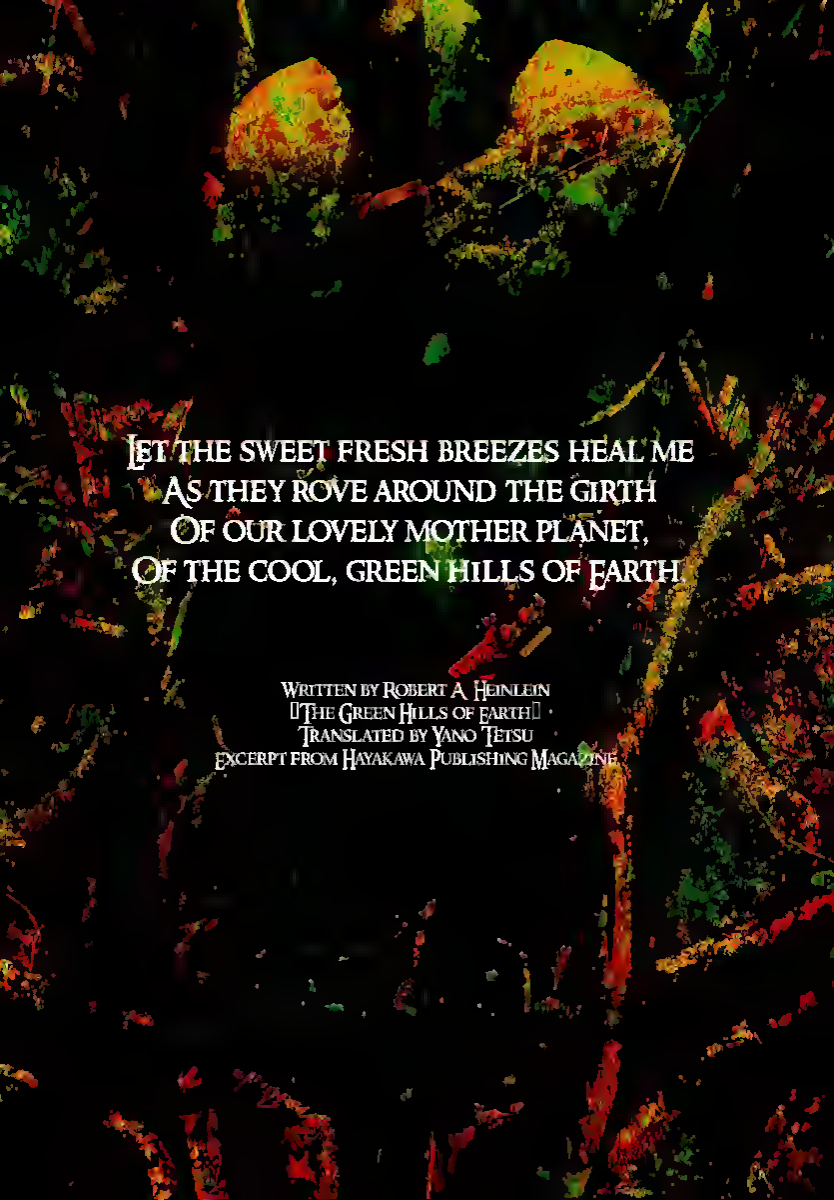
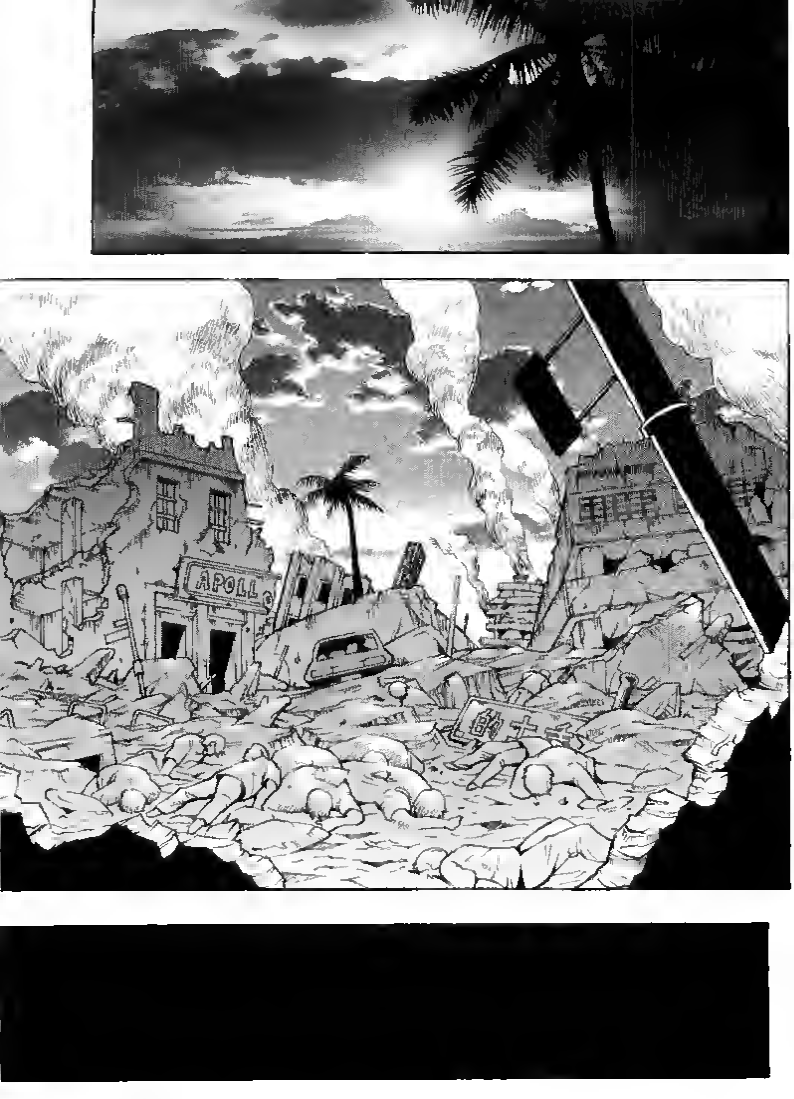
漫画／曽我篤士
設定／高野真吾
デザイン／福地位
9


Let the sweet fresh breezes heal me
As they rove around the girth
Of our lovely mother planet,
Of the cool, green hills of Earth
Written by Robert A. Heinlein
「The Green Hills of Earth」
Translated by Yano Tetsu
Excerpt from Hayakawa Publishing Magazine

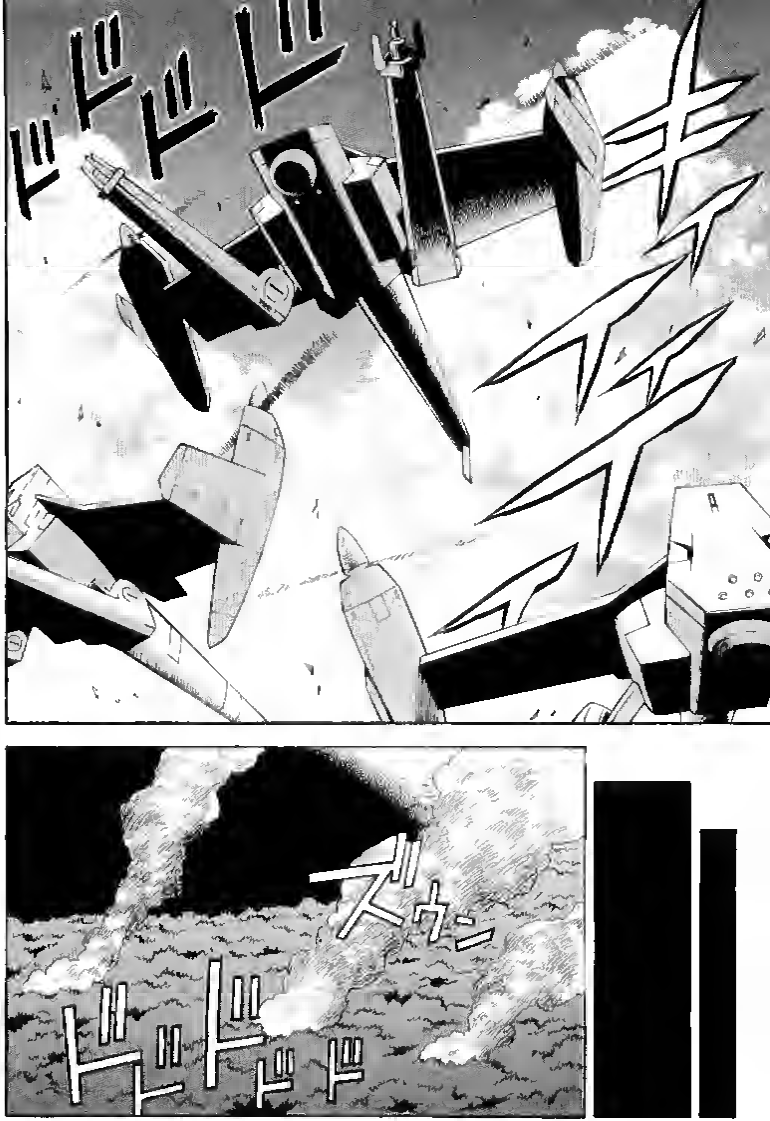
コキキキ


APOLL

ドーーーン…
ズドーン
Even in Asia,
ズーン…
And Africa, too.
..so, they surrounded the dome, right below the equator, and they're finally moving into a full frontal assault...

*T/N: SOUTH AMERICA

ガシャン
キィィ
ザザザザザ
……
パチン
パチン
キュ
ゴゴゴゴ


ドドドド
キィィィィ
ズゥーン
ドドドドドド

ゴキ ボキ
ズシン
ズゥン

GET AWAY FROM US!!
I CAN FEEL IT...
ミチ!!
グチャ
GUG-YAG-YAG-YA...
I CAN SEE IT.
WHY DON'T YOU GUYS GIVE IT A TRY, TOO?
ズウ!!
IT'S LIKE MY SENSES ARE REACHING OUT ALL OVER THE WORLD!! THIS AIN'T BAD...
YOU THINK A PEASHOOTER LIKE THAT WILL WORK AGAINST ME?!
ｸﾞ!!
GEHYAH! GIVE IT UP.

THAT HURTS
OW OWOW OWOW OW!!!
THAT REALLY HURTS.
GYAG-YAG-YAH!
QUIT-IT-
UW-AH?!

L... LET GO, DAMN IT!!
クリィーム
NOO O!!!
GE- HYA- HY- AH...
... MM ~?

GAHH!!
ボキ
ゴキ
ドシャ
DAMN IT, YOU BAS-TARDS!!
わあああ
YOU JUST HAD TO CALL THESE THINGS OUT.
BE QUIET, YOU LITTLE...
ギリ

ドゴゴゴ
...HUH?
パラパラ
...TCH.

ANNOY-
ING
LITTLE
BRAT...
THEY
WON'T HAVE
THEIR WAY
WITH ME
THOUGH, EVEN
IF I DIE...!
WHATEVER. AS
LONG AS I HAVE
THIS BRAT HERE,
IT'S ALL THE SAME...
?!
OWW!

Thank you...
Thanks ...
YOU TOO ?!!

ズ
ズ
ズ
ズ
ズ
ズ
ゴ
ゴ
ゴ

GYA-HA HAH!!
WHAT'S WRONG?! ALL YOU'RE DOING IS RUNNING!

?!!
UWAH HH!!

キュン
キュン
キュン
ABOVE YOU!!!
ワ!!
キッ

ON-EE-CHA-N!!
GU-GU-GUH

I-
GOT-
YOU
Ahh
...
Uah
...
PHEW! YOU STILL HAVE THE ENERGY TO TALK BACK, HUH!!

THIS IS GETTING ME ALL GIDDY ...!!
!!!
I'LL TURN YOU INTO A PLANT EVEN QUICKER!!
COME ON,
AHH
ビチ
ビチ
ビチ

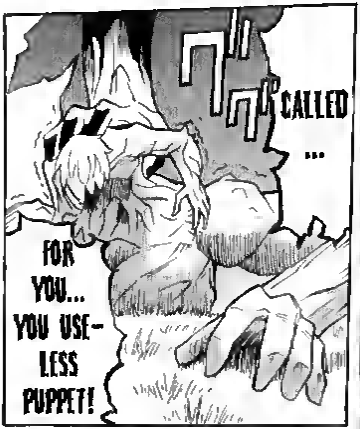
STOP IT, STOP IT!!
STOP IT!!
GYAH ...!
NU-GUH ...?!

ガキッ

DINA?!
DAMN THIS NOISE!! WHO IS THIS?!

I'LL KILL HIM!!
THAT'S RIGHT... CALL HIM OVER...
?!

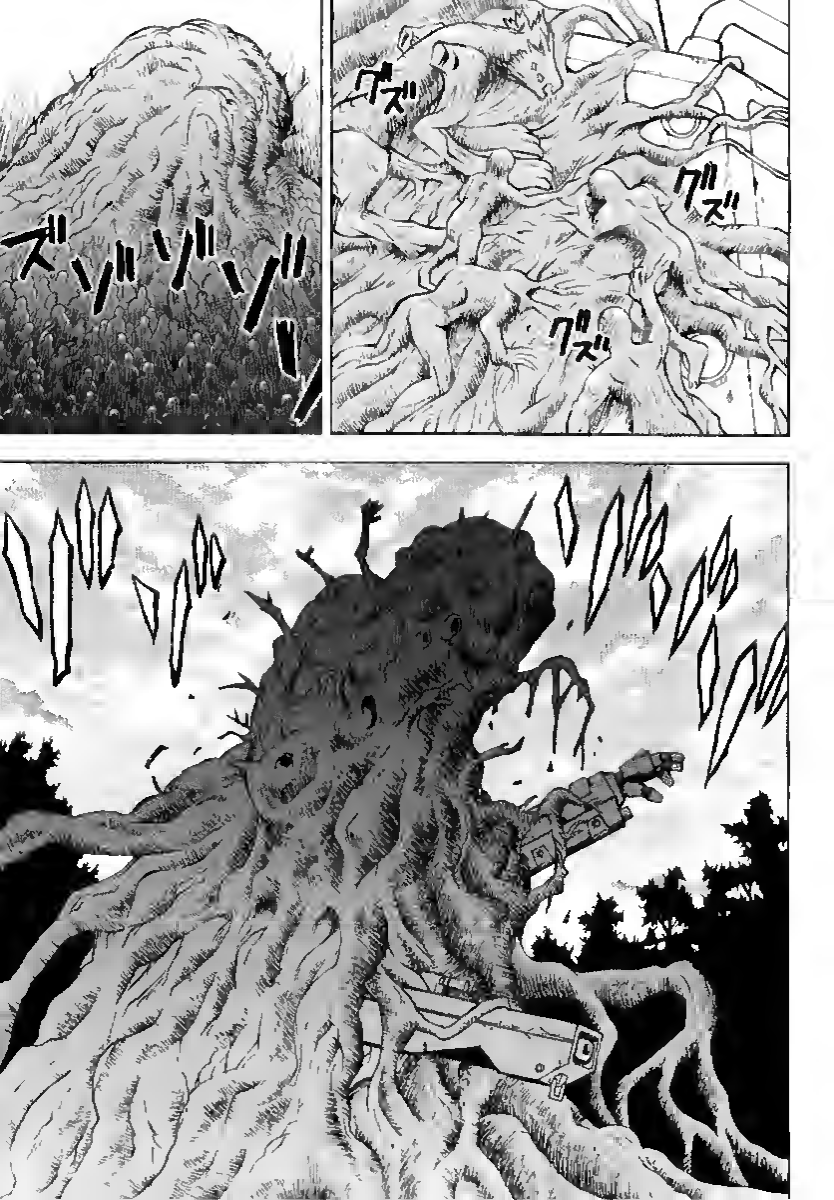
THE HELL...?!
WHAT...


CALLED ...
FOR YOU... YOU USE-LESS PUPPET!

NO ONE ...

SA
AA
AM
!!!

ドドドン
ヘッ
シャア


ズゾゾゾゾゾ
グズ
グズ
グズ

DAMN THIS NOISE!! WHO IS THIS?!
Buy some milk and eggs on the way back!
It's me, it's me!
It's like you have alzheimer's these days.
Don't for-get!
SOME MILK AND... WHAT WAS IT AGAIN?!
WHO'S GOT ALZHEIMER'S?! I'M MORE AWARE THAN YOU ARE!

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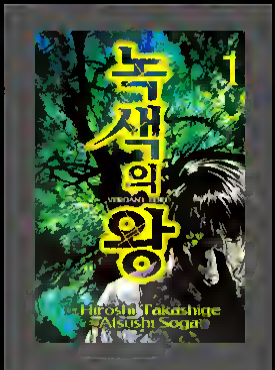
VERDANT LORD

by Hiroshi Takashige & Atsushi Soga

If you like this manga please support its creators by buying a copy of the original book.



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Raws: Vergil
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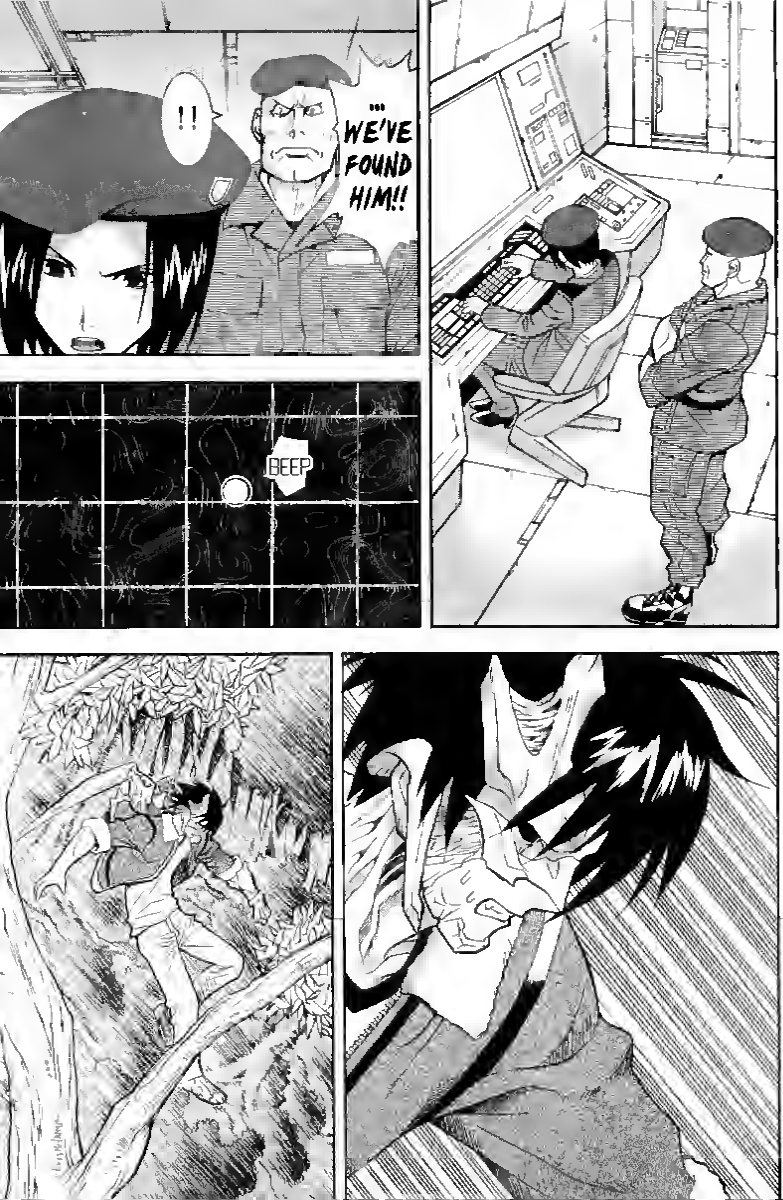
Artwork from the manhua "The Lawless"

THE EQUIP-MENT'S NOT WORKING!!
I CAN'T GET OUT!! I CAN'T GET OUT!!
ANY...
SOME-ONE!!!
HEY!! I'M STILL IN HERE!!
GET ME OUT OF HERE!!
Bzzt

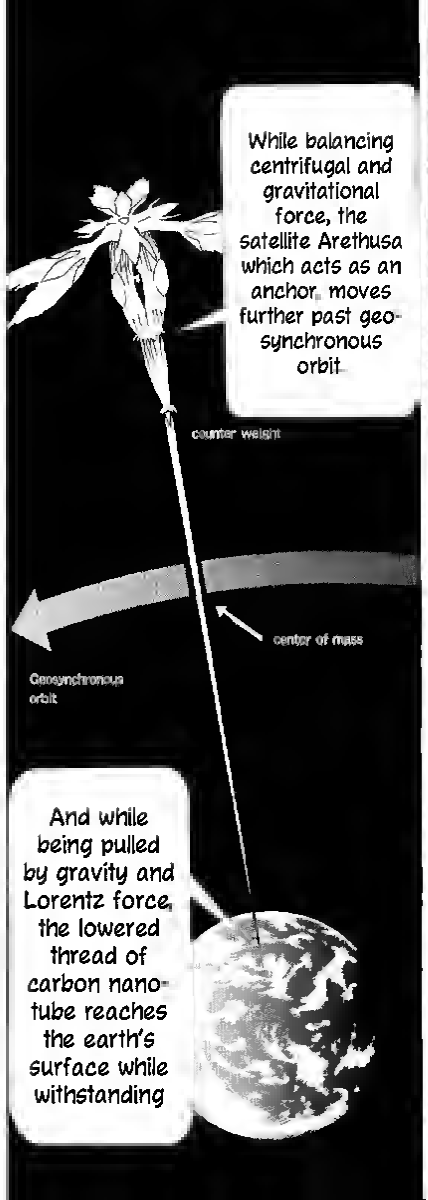
WHAT IS THAT?!!
WHO CARES WHAT IT IS, LET'S RUN FOR IT!!
ズズズ
OUTTA THE WAY!!!

ゴ
!?


!!
...
WE'VE FOUND HIM!!
BEEP

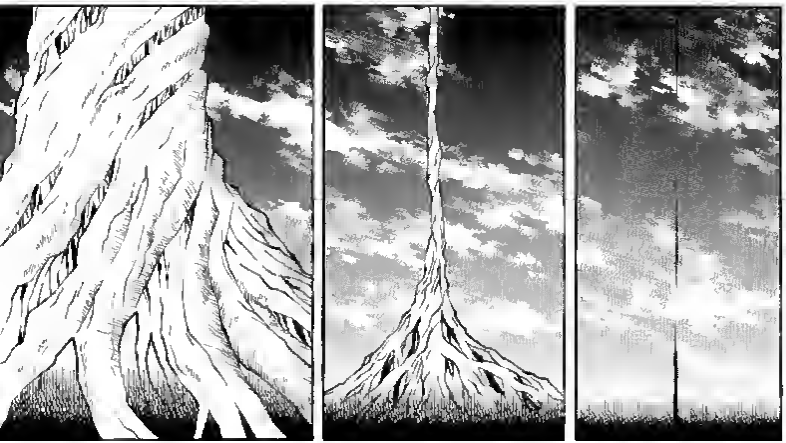
YOU DAMN FOOL!!!!
WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU WANDERING OFF TO?!!!
THAT ALMOST KNOCKED ME OUT AGAIN!!
If you can reply, that means you've come to, right?!
Mm.
WH-WHA...?!
Your existence is more important than anything else right now. You're still at that point between human and Arethusa.
I thought you had completely given up your humanity.

There's no sample more convenient. We've also spent a large budget on you.
It's up to you if you want to give up on being human, but when you do, we'll be done with you, and you'll be disposed off Remember that.
SHUT UP...!
WHO SAID I'M GIVING IT UP?!!!
The situation's become a huge mess while we lost contact with you.
I'm going to fill you in, so listen carefully.
There's also the group of idiots that went rushing after you.
?

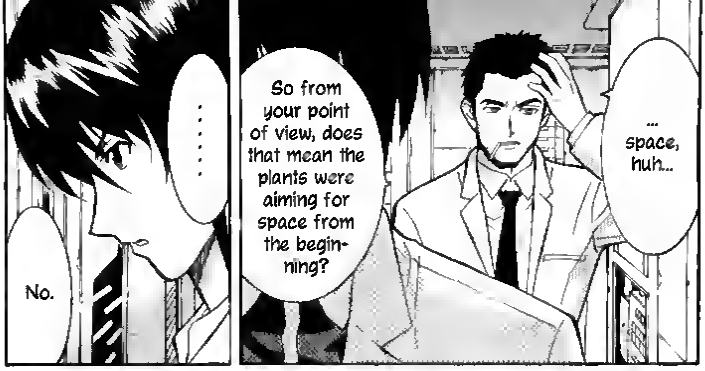

While balancing centrifugal and gravitational force, the satellite Arethusa which acts as an anchor, moves further past geo-synchronous orbit
counter weight
center of mass
Geosynchronous orbit
And while being pulled by gravity and Lorentz force, the lowered thread of carbon nano-tube reaches the earth's surface while withstanding

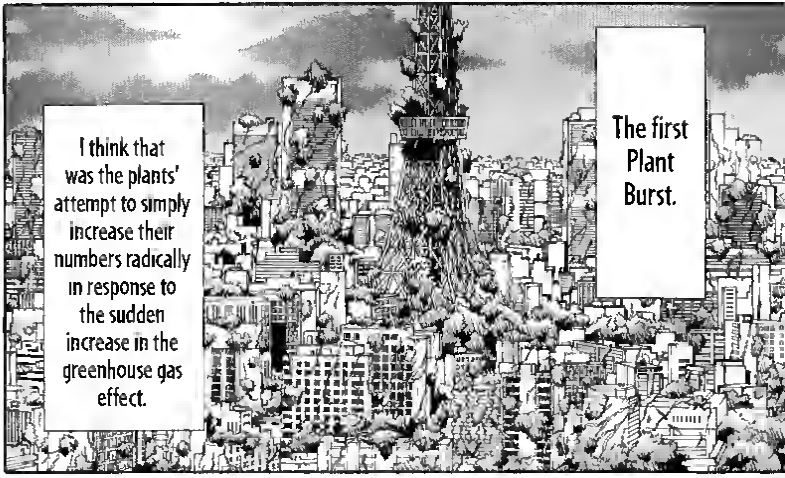
The construction method of the orbital elevator is fundamentally the same as what we humans came up with.

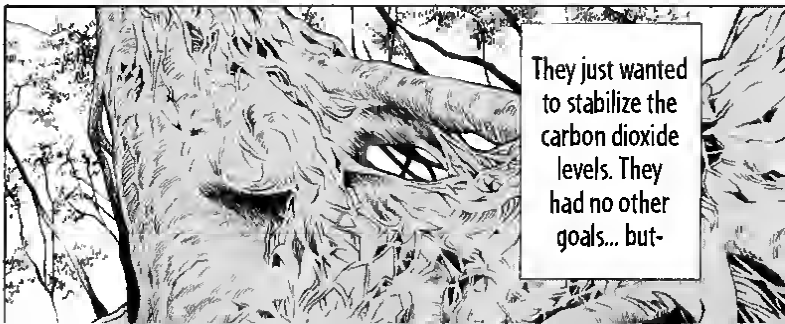
Next, raw materials get sent up that thread.
The lowered thread connects to the Arethusa Dome, which is a nanocarbon refinery.



Leads to the completion of a colossal orbital elevator...
Weaving billions, even trillions, of nanotubes together,

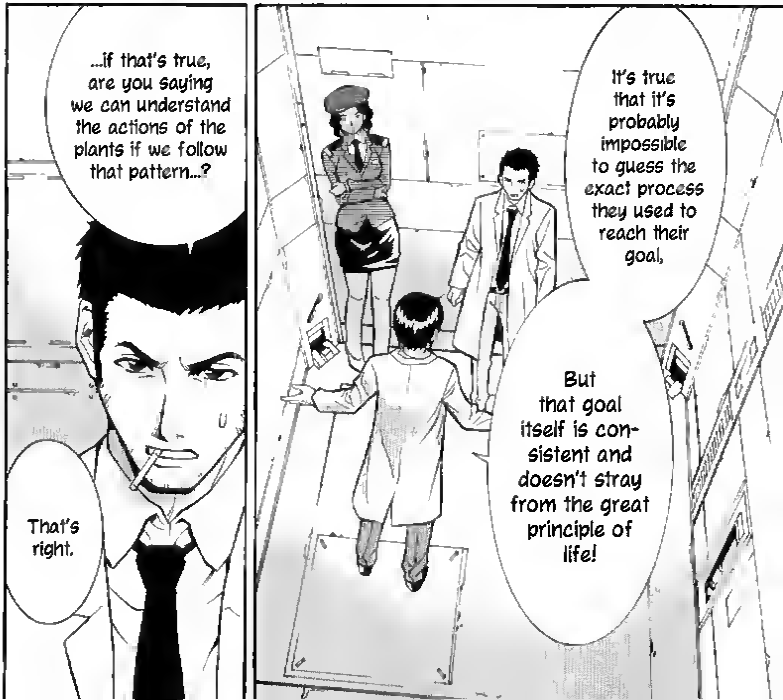

No.
.....
So from your point of view, does that mean the plants were aiming for space from the beginning?
... space, huh...


I think that was the plants' attempt to simply increase their numbers radically in response to the sudden increase in the greenhouse gas effect.
The first Plant Burst.


They just wanted to stabilize the carbon dioxide levels. They had no other goals... but-

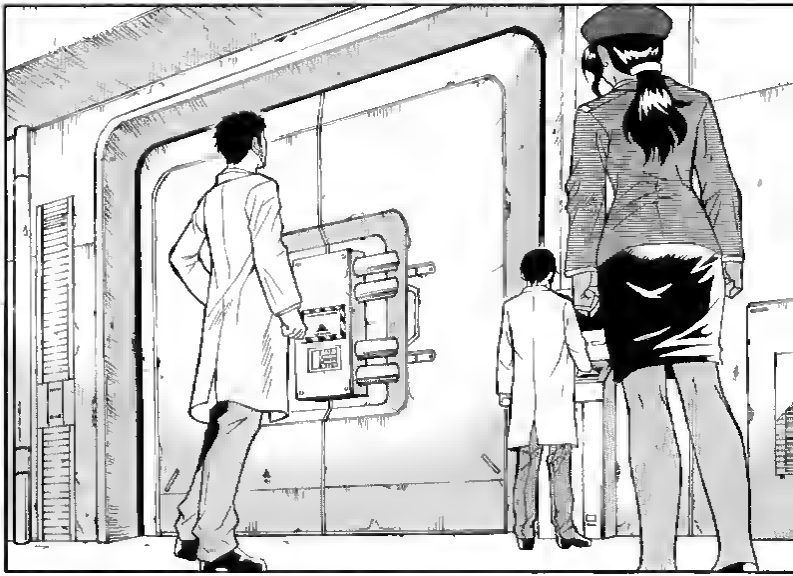
-So are you saying, that as a by-product, they "obtained a thought processing ability" that was beyond what they had anticipated?
That's the part that makes me uneasy
An ability of thought processing that far surpasses that of humans...
Isn't it impossible to predict what they're trying to accomplish with something like that?!

PRE-CISELY, DR. LOWE!
BEING PRESENTED WITH SUCH AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF INFORMATION, THEY WERE CONFUSED.
?!
BUT THE ANSWER WAS THERE FROM THE BEGINNING, AND IT NEVER CHANGED!

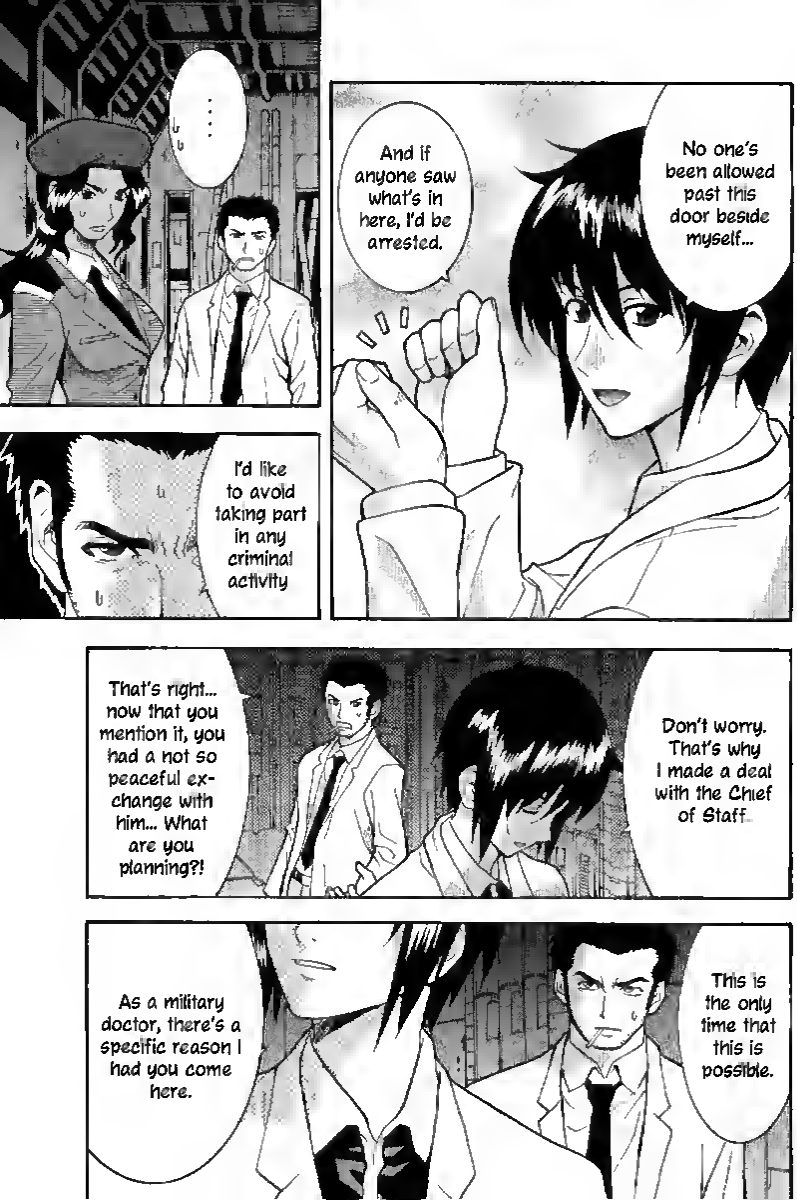

...if that's true, are you saying we can understand the actions of the plants if we follow that pattern...?
That's right.
It's true that it's probably impossible to guess the exact process they used to reach their goal,
But that goal itself is consistent and doesn't stray from the great principle of life!

A primeval behavior, a supreme need, for their seeds to survive.
In other words, diversification and self propagation.
Whoops, I got caught up in the conversation.
...what the hell is on this floor?

ジィィ…

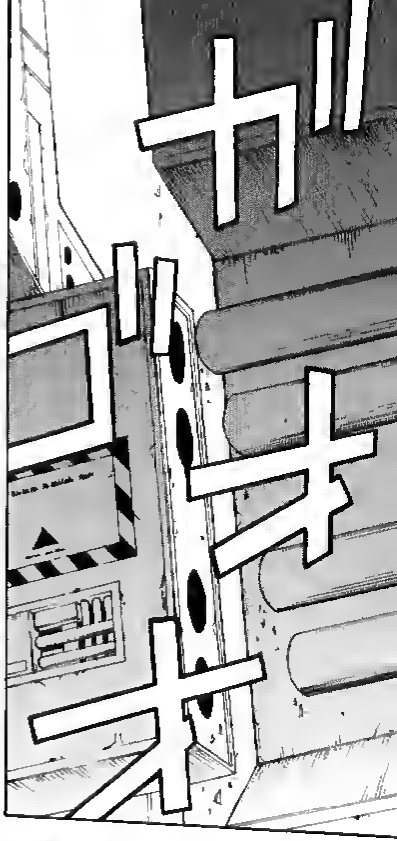


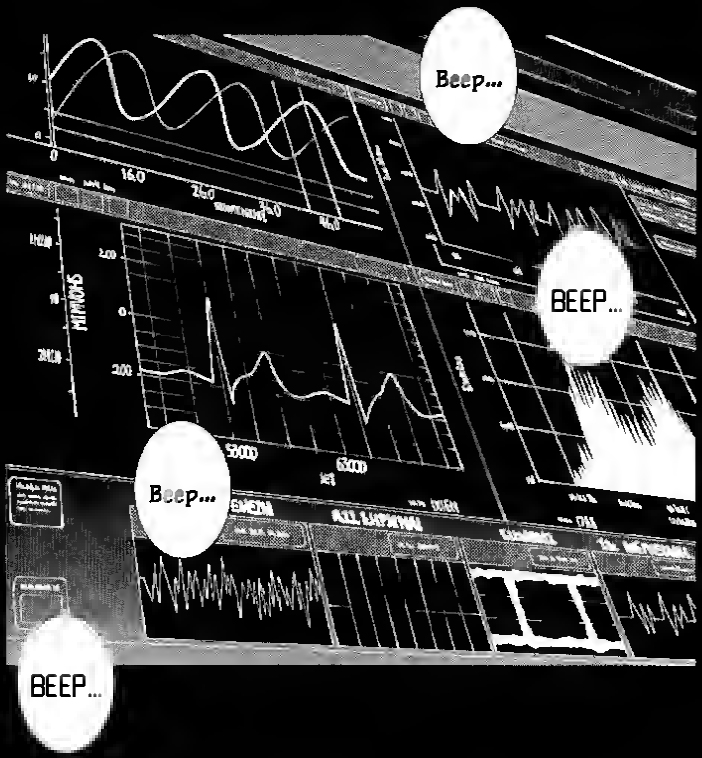
Well, of course.
Security is unusually tight.


. . . .
No one's been allowed past this door beside myself...
And if anyone saw what's in here, I'd be arrested.
I'd like to avoid taking part in any criminal activity
Don't worry. That's why I made a deal with the Chief of Staff.
That's right... now that you mention it, you had a not so peaceful exchange with him... What are you planning?!
This is the only time that this is possible.
As a military doctor, there's a specific reason I had you come here.

……
?!

…WHAT IS THIS…?!




Beep...
BEEP...
Beep...
BEEP...
Beep...

YOU BASTA-AARD!!!
Uh....
NOW'S OUR CHANCE, CAN YOU MOVE?!

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Artwork from "Stravanoaza Isai no Hime"

!
This way!
ガ
FOR MEEE !!
ガガガ
WAIT ...
バギ
GEH
ドド
ドド

YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY...
NOT UNTIL HE GETS HERE!!!

Then you won't need them anymore.

Come get some, bitch...!

Take that colony down!!
Our firepower won't have any affect on them if they become any more concentrated.
... EH?!
BWOP BWOP
09

THAT MONSTER...
HAS LEARNED HOW TO USE MACHINES
S... SNIPER FIRE?!
A RAILGUN... IS IT ALIVE?! NO, MORE IMPORTANTLY...

SHIN!!
Sorry guys, looks like I caused you some trouble.
NO, SHIN, BEHIND, BEHIND YOU!!
ゴッ
ギニ

DAMN, SO CLOSE!
GTTHA HAHAHA HAHA!!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
...IT'S NOTH-ING-!!

ドドド

I don't think he'll just let us leave unharmed.
THAT'S RIGHT! THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO TAKE THE BAIT. IGNORE HIM AND LET'S GO.
... he's inviting me in..
IT'S A TRAP, BRO!
I'm probably his only target anyway.
I'll go to him and end this.
Rather than have him follow us from behind and attack you guys again,
He might have just been reacting to Dina's allelopathy like the other Arethusa, or maybe-
I'm... not sure... It looked like he jumped in to save us earlier, but..
More importantly, is it okay to just leave him be?
NO WAY!! .....

It's mixed in with everyone else's, so I don't know anymore...
His voice,
... I don't know.
And we're the ones that came here to save you...
Anyway, I'll leave these two to you guys.
I see ..
.....
I GOT THIS!
AN-CHAN, YOU CAN'T LOSE TO A GUY LIKE THAT NO MATTER WHAT!!
ARE YOU REALLY GOING?! YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN YOU'LL LOSE YOUR SENSES AGAIN!

I thought you were planning something since way back, but .
...I'm at a loss for words...
No need to over think it.
The problem is just whether or not we have a "chance" left.
It should be possible as long as all the conditions are set, right?
A "precision instrument" is no problem for Doctor Edward Lowe, right?

Stop it. That's all in the past.
I lost those skills a long time ago.
...what you just told me, and that "GESRI"...
This really is an act that fears no god.
I didn't know you were such a religious person.
Even if I'm not, this makes me want to say at least one prayer.
Even if this works, we may never be able to ever go back to our once peaceful world!

Even so, " the die is cast"...
... dear God...

HEY!!
COME OUT AND FIGHT ALREADY!!
HAA
HAA
HAA

KIRIHI... I'M OVER HERE

!!!
UOHH!!
HAA!!
Shit... he sees through my movements!
His short range and all these obstacles are a deadly combo.
He's acting like an idiot, but he's composed...
Now that he has the same body as me, I guess it comes down to an amateur vs. a soldier.
What do I do...?!

KEEP ATTACK-ING!!!
GUH AHH!!

HQ! We're retreating for ...
ブシュン
It's no use ...!
It...
ズズ
ズズズ
!!
WHA...?!!
Fool.

If you lack resolve, you are not one with us, and know that you will be shot from behind!
Where do you think you're retreating to?
We have nowhere to return to.

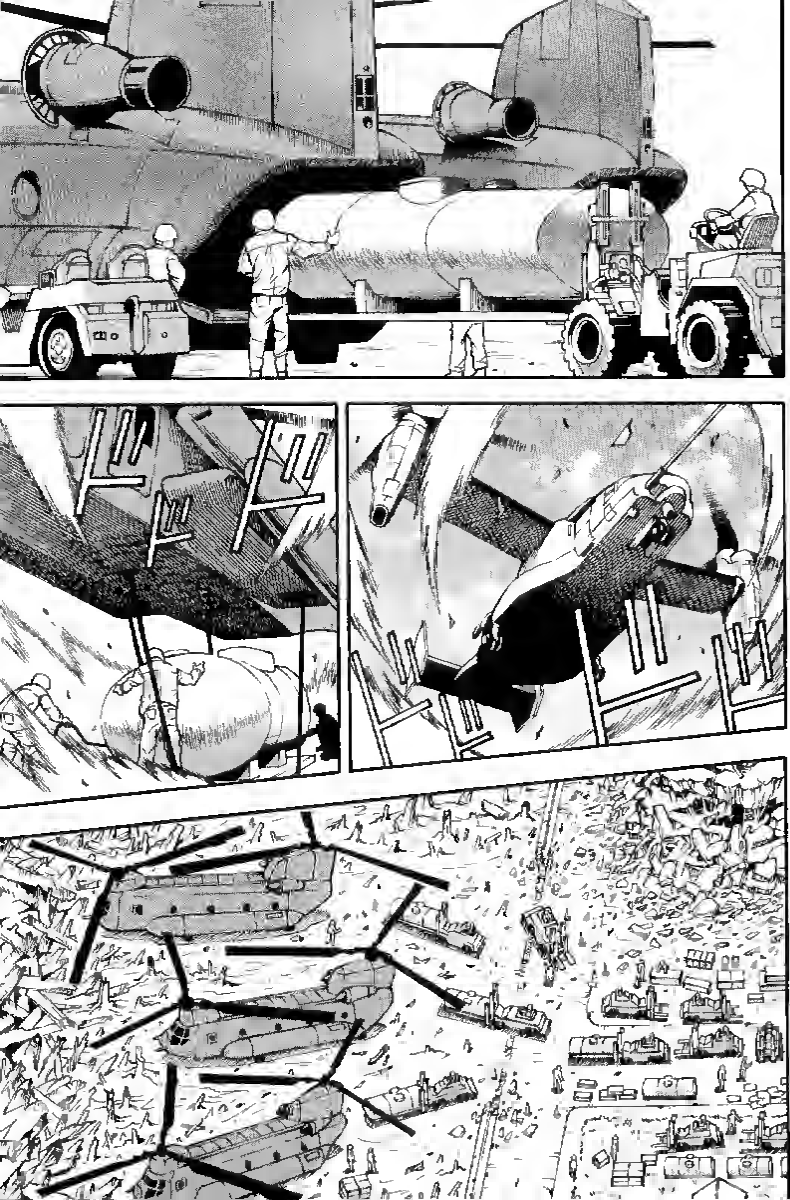
FORWARD!
ADVANCE!

...THIS IS BAD. THE BATTLE'S GETTING WORSE, AND IT'S COMING THIS WAY...!

ドドド

HALT, WHICH SQUAD ARE YOU WITH?!
!!!
CIVILIANS?! ... NO, THE REGULAR ARMY!!
IT'S WITHIN OUR SCOPE OF OPERATION TO SHOOT THEM DOWN!!
FIRE!!

?!!
GU WAHH
NEE-CHAN, ABOVE...!
WH... WHAT?!



ゴリ
ギリ
バリ
ギリ
...
SHAH!!!

TCH...!
...YOU BASTARD!!

Wh... what is this?!

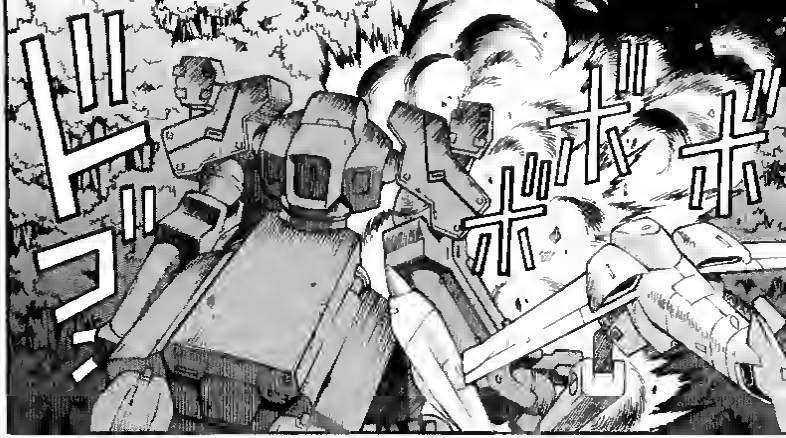
ドドン
WH... WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
DON'T GET IN MY WAY, I'LL FUCKING KILL YOU!!

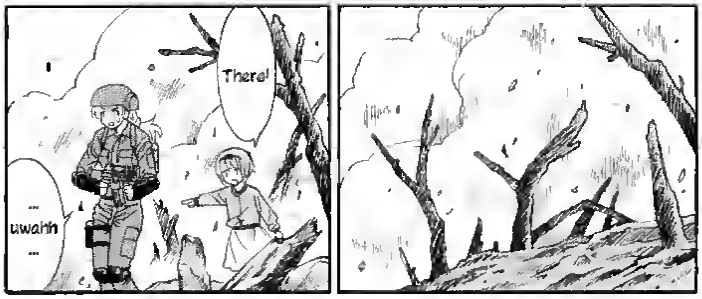
ATTENTION!!!

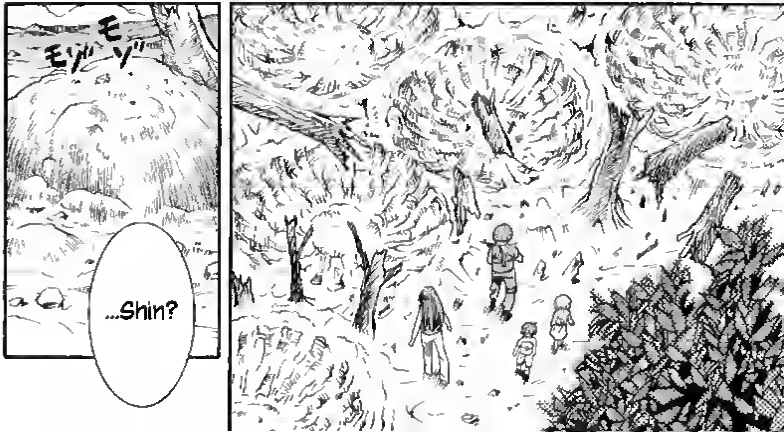
……
…HUH?!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, LEAVING YOUR UNIT WITHOUT PERMISSION?!
WHAT'S WITH THAT BODY, FALLING UNDER YOUR ENEMY'S CONTROL?! AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A SOLDIER?!!!
YOU'RE A DISGRACE!!!
GU… H

SHUT UP!!
OTHER-WISE...
YOU SHOULD YOU AT LEAST COMMIT SUICIDE, OR GIVE YOUR BODY UP-
I DON'T NEED TO LISTEN TO YOUR ORDERS!!!
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?!! I HAVE NO-THING TO DO WITH YOU NOW!!!
-EEH?!
... I see.
... alright.

!!!


ドゴ
ボボ


There!
...
Uwahh
...


モゾ
モゾ
...Shin?

.....
PTT PTT
GA HAH!!
ゴリバリ
ゲズン
キュウウ
.....
...what's he here for...?

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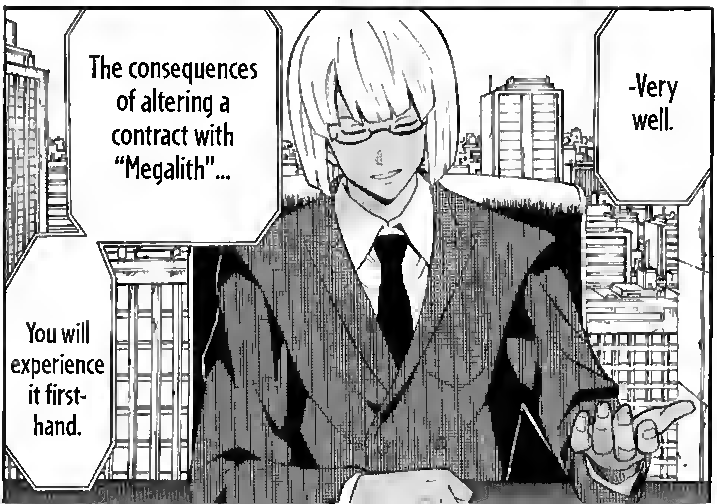
Artwork from Donten ni Warau
Coloured by Syrelli, 3# EGS Colouring Contest winner.

What do you want? I'm in the middle of a battle.
.....
ズドドド
ズゥン
ドォン
You've taken some rather unexpected actions.
ザザ
This is quite trouble-some, General Taylor
The initial agreement was to incite a guerilla-like civil war and increase the need for the military.
I can't report every little detail to you.
Situations change each moment during war.

I can hardly foresee any large expenditures or this war being prolonged with such full-scale attacks.
Everything I provided you would be mean ingless if you change our agreement.
...hmph...

DON'T THINK THAT YOUR VULGAR DESIRES FOR PROFIT CARRIES ANY MEANING ON THIS NOBLE BATTLEFIELD!!
GET OFF YOUR HIGH HORSE, YOU DAMN MERCHANT OF DEATH!!


The consequences of altering a contract with "Megalith"...
You will experience it first-hand.
-Very well.

A unit of independent MT's have been deployed near HQ! They've opened fire!
?!!
WHAT ARE YOU...?
They're not in our database. They're a new model!

STOP THAT HUGE THING!!
?!!
AN ARE-THUSA ?!

ヒュ
ゴキ

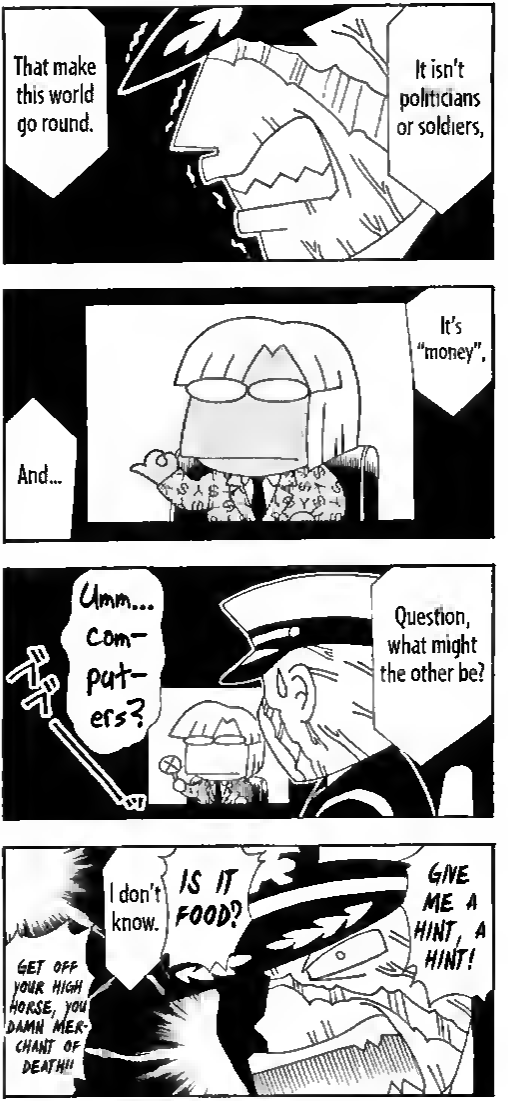
GUH...
IT'S NO USE!! WE CAN'T HOLD BACK THE NEW MODEL MTS WITH OUR OWN!!
NOT EVEN THE AMERICAN ARMY SHOULD KNOW WHERE IT IS!!
THE LOCATION OF OUR MAIN FORCES,
カリ
...YOU.
SO IT'S YOU!!

What ever do you mean?
THIS CAN'T BE!!
WE MUST CONTINUE OUR STAND HERE!
THIS CAN NOT BE!!!
UNTIL THE AMERICAN CITIZENS OPEN THEIR EYES AND RISE UP!!!
I WILL NOT BE STOPPED!
I really don't know what you're speaking about.
If you truly are in the midst of war, then an unexpected attack should be a given, correct?

Here's a piece of advice for an outdated general who's forgotten what era he's in.
It isn't politicians or soldiers that make this world go round.
It's "business",
And "information".
BLIP
GAGA
ZAZAZAZA
GAGA.
.....!

Has Ken realized by now...?
... now then,
The inexplicable actions of the plants,
The orbital elevator,
Even if they are moving on instinct, that should allow you to predict their movements...
ゴォォ
オォ

There's a group of Arethusa below us!
Roger.
Commence operation!
Spray the 「GESRI」!!


That make this world go round.
It isn't politicians or soldiers,
It's "money",
And...
Umm... com-put-ers?
Question, what might the other be?
I don't know.
IS IT FOOD?
GIVE ME A HINT, A HINT!
GET OFF YOUR HIGH HORSE, YOU DAMN MERCHANT OF DEATH!!

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VERDANT LORD

by Hiroshi Takashige & Atsushi Soga

If you like this manga please support its creators by buying a copy of the original book.

Verdant Lord v9 Ch 57

Credits
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Cleaner: catnip
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ドバババ
Onii-chan, what are they doing?
Dunno -
Nee-chan, what are they doing?
OWOW OWOW!
WHAT THE HELL, YOU'RE USELESS!
... I don't know, but seeing as how I can't make contact, they must be in the middle of some big operation that takes priority over us...

I plan to return to the Colonel.
What about you...
I WAS KIDDING!
KIIH.
Let's pray we never meet again.
...right.
That old man... what was he sneaking around here for-
.....
Take care...

...
SHIN!!
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF, SHIN!!
Hey, what are you talking about? It's not like I...
...
...SHIN!! DID YOU COME TO?!
...huh?
!!
Just now...
It was only for a little while, but you lost consciousness again!
Hold on! What are you talking about?!
... you don't realize it, do you..

No matter how many times we called out to you,
You wouldn't respond.
For how long?
.....
It felt like forever, but it probably wasn't even a minute.
... I see..
I don't.. haha,
Come on, don't make that face...

But,
I won't be scared, even if you're completely covered in plants
I-

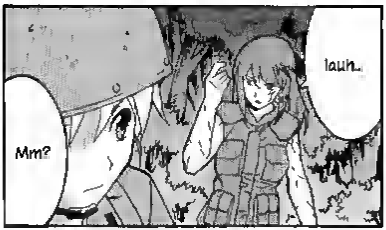
I DON'T WANT YOU TO DIS-APPEAR...!!
I DON'T WANT YOU TO LEAVE ME!!

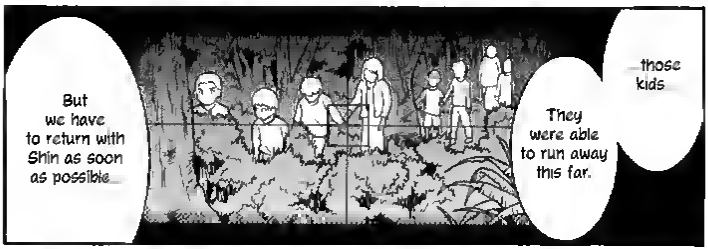
I don't want that either.
...yeah.

HUH?!

Let's go.
Nothing's gonna happen with us just standing around

Tch.. you're one to talk. You were the one spacing out just a second ago.
Okay, okay, it's all right... if you wanna cry.
SHUT UP!! I'M NOT CRYING!
SNIFF-FLE


Mm?
Iauh..


But we have to return with Shin as soon as possible...
They were able to run away this far.
...those kids...

WAIT, HEY!!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!!
If we return to the rendezvous point, we can send help, so that's all the more reason to hurry!

HEY!
HELP YOURSELF FIRST BEFORE YOU HELP OTHERS.
WAIT!!
Shut up. I not waiting
DIDN'T YOU LEARN ANYTHING UP TO NOW?!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY YOUR BODY'S TURNED INTO THIS!!

And as a result, I turned into monster.
You're right
Lenny
.....

This body... of course, I didn't ask for it, but having said that, I have no regrets either
That's why I'm convinced

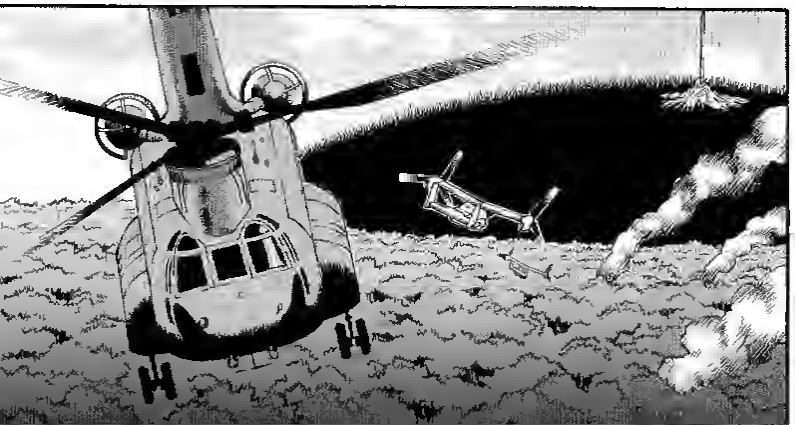
It's not for anyone else
At least for me
It's better than having regrets from not doing the obvious

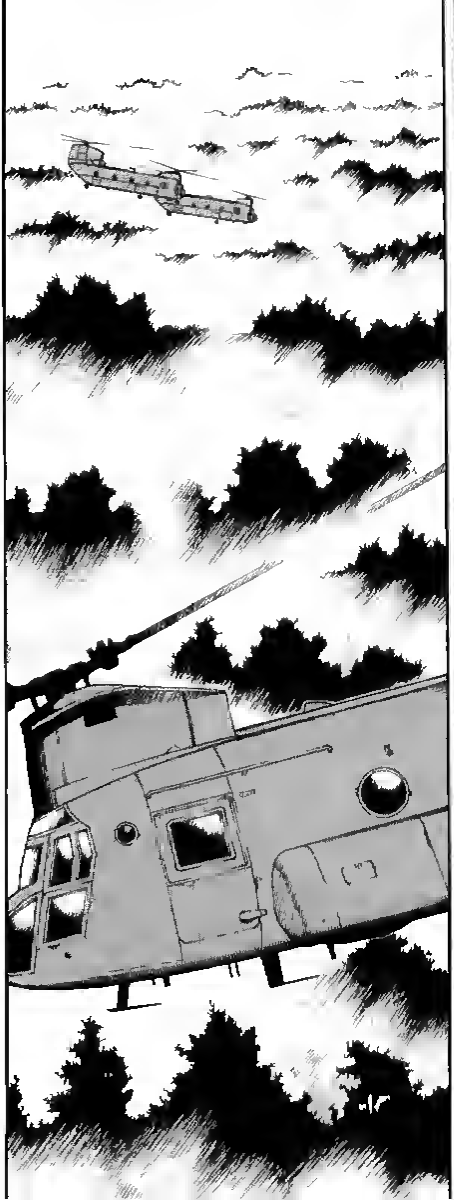
Puh
Ah- it's so frustrating.. Is this why I ended up liking you?
.....
...th- that's right.
You were that type of guy
.!!
WHAT THE HELL, THAT WAS TOTALLY RANDOM...
If you're going to do whatever you want, then I'll do the same
ニヨ?

I've captured a transmission from Second Lt. Sarah
Finally... it's about time.
She's rendez-vousing with a helicopter. She says she's securing the children.
.. children?
Tch.. is that why they're late?
Have them hurry. It may be too late though
ギュ
ギュ
ギュ

THERE'S NO SPACE? EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE EXECUTING SUCH A LARGE SCALE OPERATION?!
THERE'S NO SPACE ON THE HELICOPTER RIGHT NOW. AND WE HAVE TO HURRY AND RETURN WITH THE CONVOY...
PLEASE HURRY.

Haa.. I can finally go back
YES, ALL THE AIRCRAFTS THAT WERE CAPABLE OF CARRYING THE SPRAY MACHINES HAVE BEEN SENT OUT AGAIN.
Spray -?

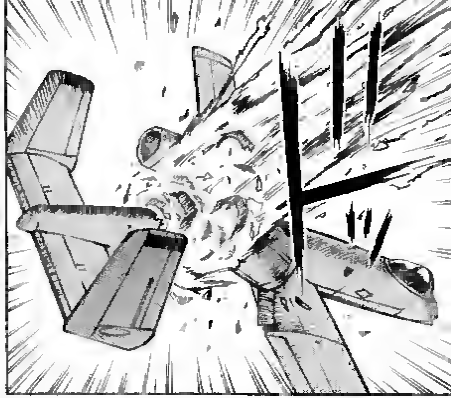


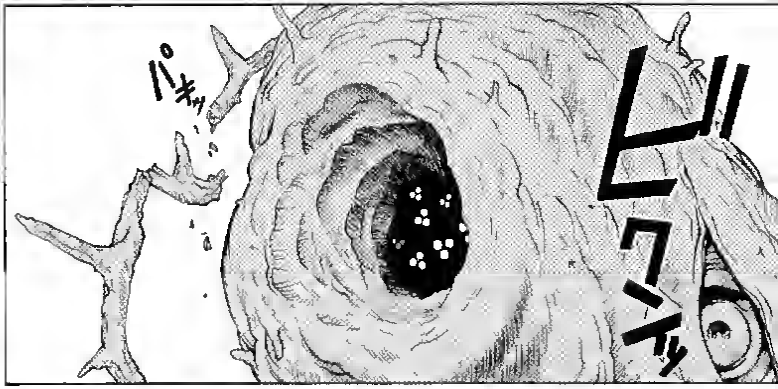


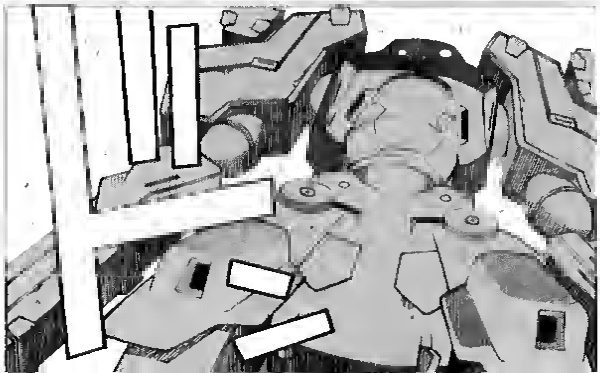
The trees are suffering...?
Crumble
Mm?
The forest,
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
?!

パラ
パラ
WHAT
...
WH...

KELLY ?!!
SHIN?!!
AHH... UH!!




パキッ
ビキッ



GUH...
NUH...
WE DIVIDED OUR FORCES IN ORDER TO COMMENCE GUERILLA WARFARE, BUT THAT'S TURNED AROUND TO HARM US...!!
But why aren't they moving in for the attack ...?!
Damn Megalith dogs...

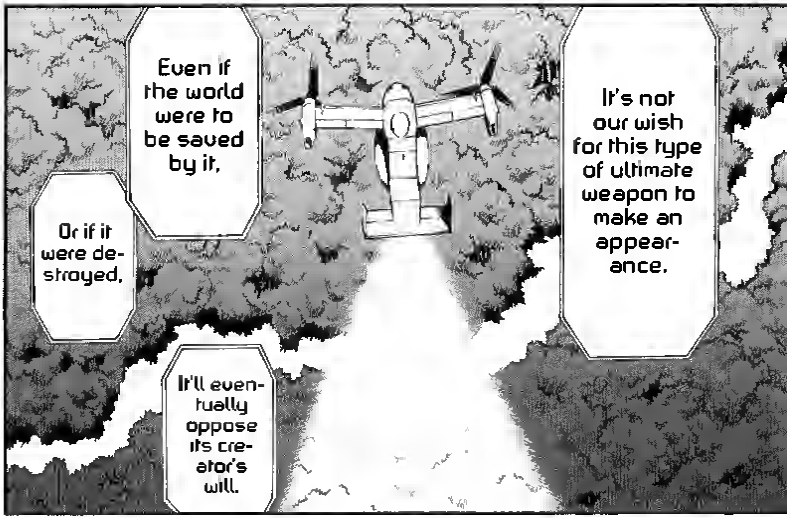
!!
SIR!! THAT'S...?!
S... SIR!! YOU SHOULD GET OUT FOR THE MOMENT AND...
Hmph ...
It was just a gamble but Looks like it worked.
バラ
バラ
バラ
THIS IS...
WHAT?!!

The American army's ultimate anti-plant weapon.
"GESRI"

HII!!
-And all we did was provide the US army was Megalith's research facilities.
Gene suppression through RNA interference.
GESRI for short.
It seems it's configured to only affect the plants from the multiworlds who are quick to grow
I suppose it falls under biochemical weaponry

YOU STILL SENT ME OUT TO BURN IN THIS WAR?!!
KNOWING THE US ARMY WOULD USE SUCH A THING...!!
What-
Did you say...?
...you...
No. your superior.
Hah...
This is what you get,
For starting a flashy, half-assed coup.
If you hadn't provoked the US army, they would've hesitated in gambling with the use of these weapons.
Right... if I were to guess, I would've said another 3 months.

America has a need to refrain from exerting the full force of their defenses.
In this situation, where the US army is facing both the plants and the rebel army,


Even if the world were to be saved by it,
Or if it were destroyed,
It'll eventually oppose its creator's will.
It's not our wish for this type of ultimate weapon to make an appearance.

I guess you reap what you sow.
Because you weren't aware of what was going on, all your actions were for naught.

All units, advance!!!
Do not falter!!
How dare you...
How dare you...!!
Our enemies are falling!! This is where we manifest our iron will!!!
WHAT... IS THIS...?!
It's your CG.
We'll have you let us use that for now.
.....
It would raise suspicion if the rebel army suddenly collapsed.
...Kuh
Ku kuku ...!!

FORGET ABOUT THE PLANTS!!!
YOU ALL ARE THE ONES WHO ARE!!!

Kukuku-hahaha-ha!!!
.....

Kuku ku!!
You must not retreat, attack!!
... wow..

THE MON-STERS !!!

Anni-
hilate
them!!!
Con-
cen-
trate
your
fire!!
Feel free
to continue
your war
in hell,
General.

ドドドド
ガキ
キキ

SHIN

NO!!
IT'LL GET WORSE IF YOU FLAIL AROUND!!
GUH

This body... of course, I didn't ask for it,
But having said that, I have no regrets either.
It's better than having regrets from not doing the obvious.
At least for me.
FOR YOU?
It's not for anyone else.
SHUT UP

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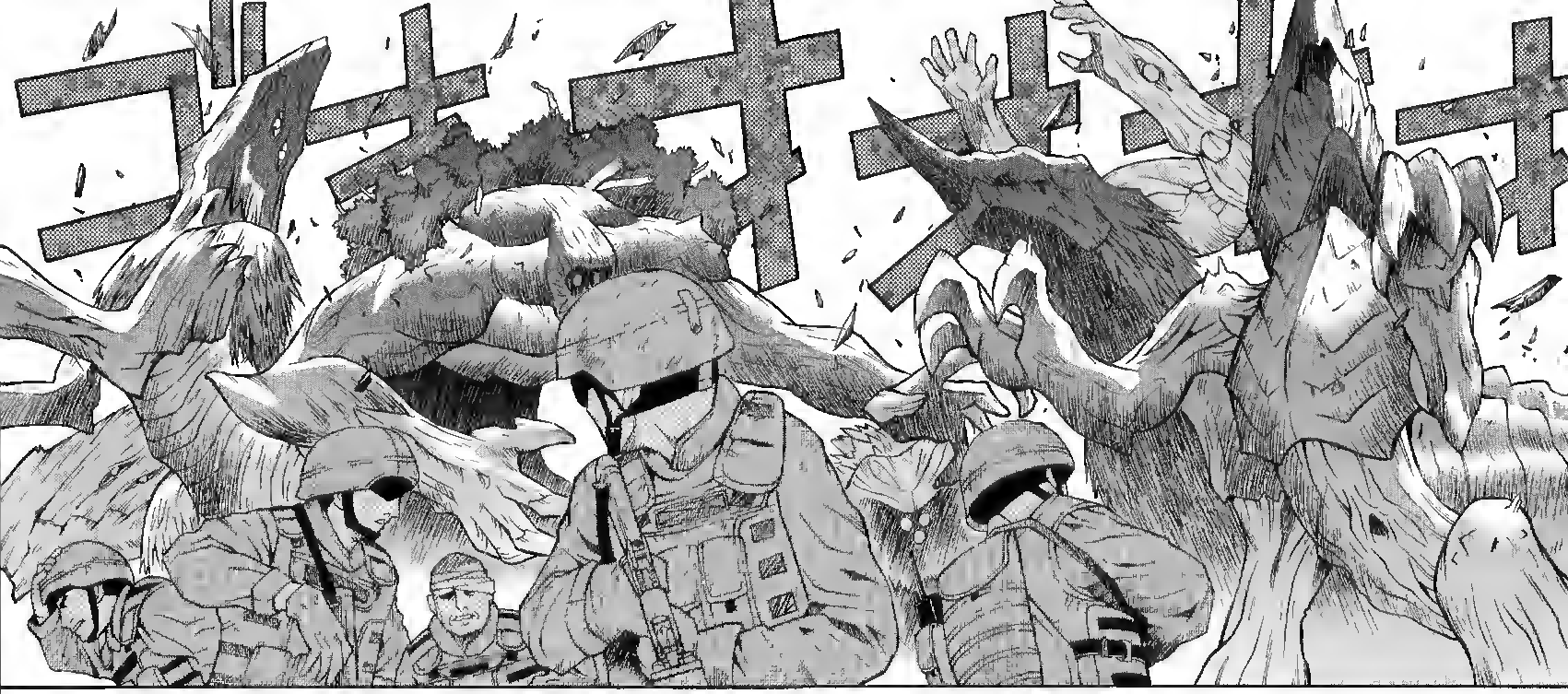
WE CAN'T STOP THEM.
IT'S NO USE.
RE-TREAT!!!
RE-TREAT!

WHA ...?!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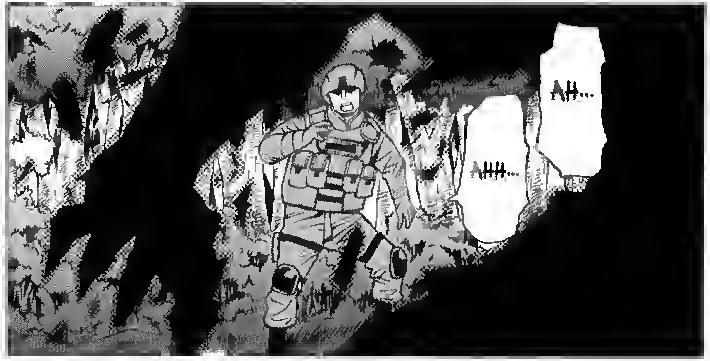
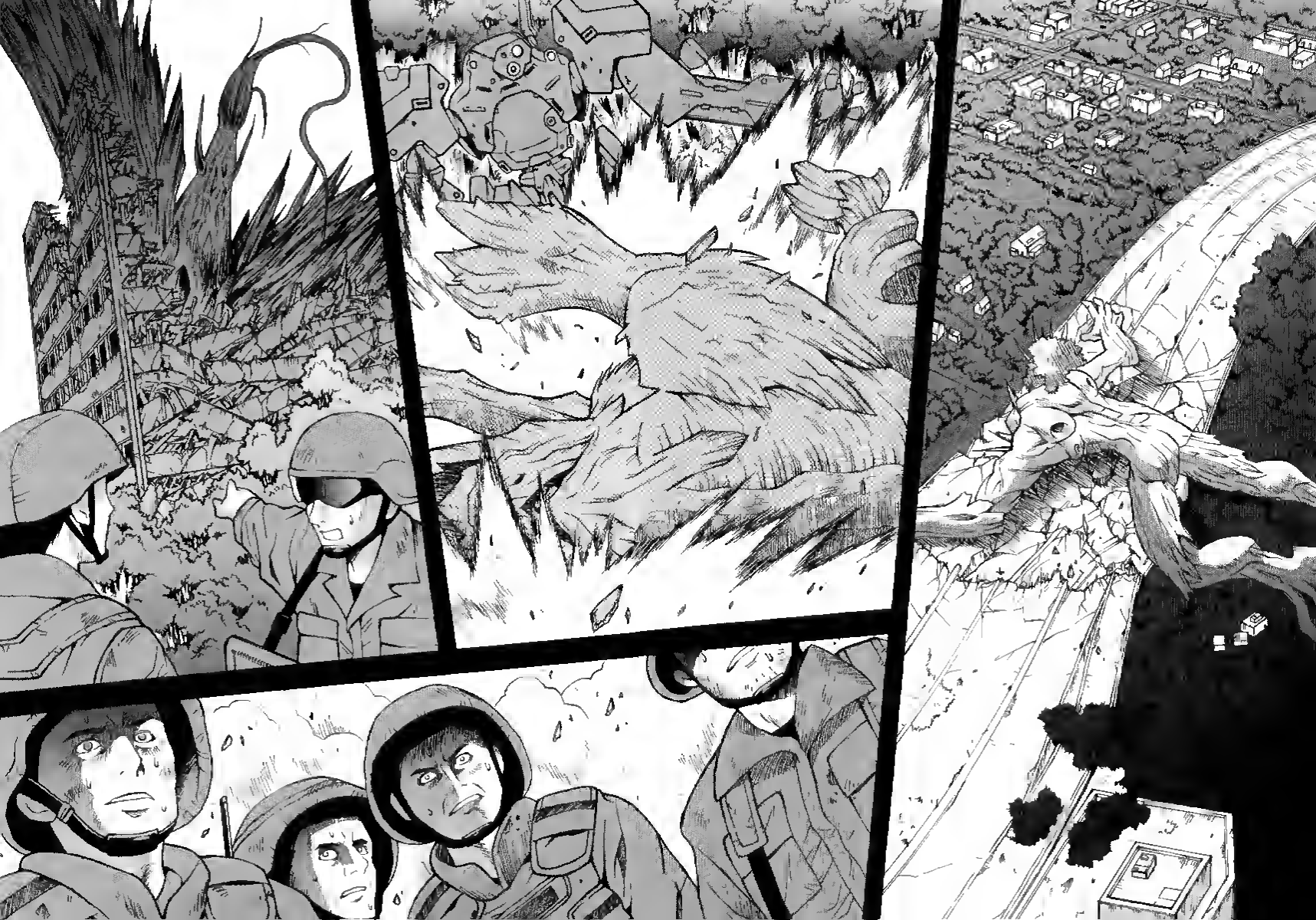
ギギギ

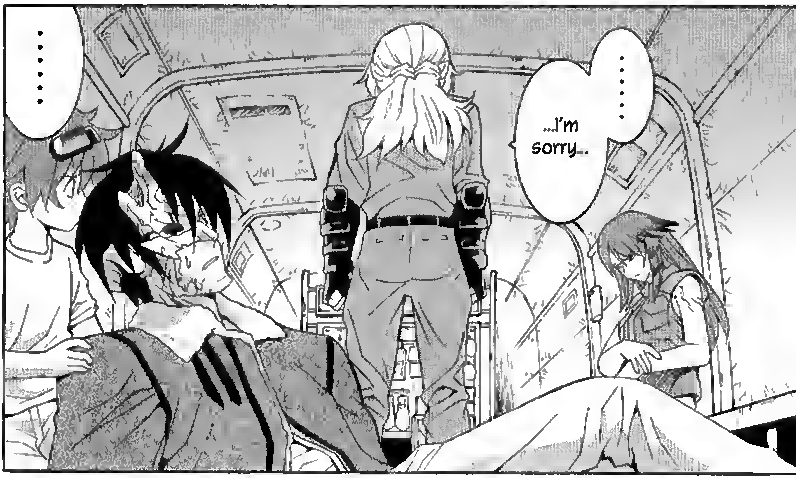

AH...
AHH...

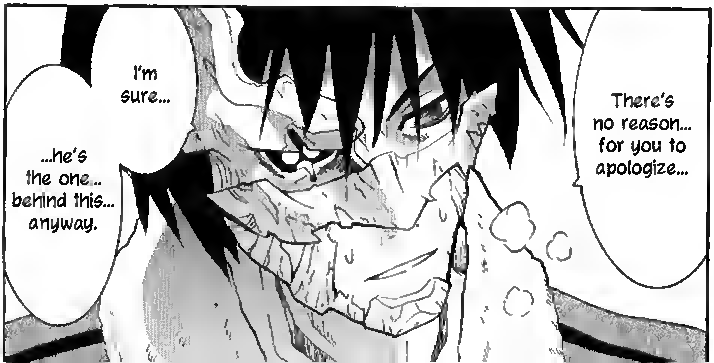


HE'S FEELING ALL THE PAIN THAT WAS NEUTRALIZED BY THE PLANT UNTIL NOW!!
Guh...
DON'T TOUCH HIM!!
SHIN!
SHIN!!
...gahh...!!
Guhh...
AH-HH!!!

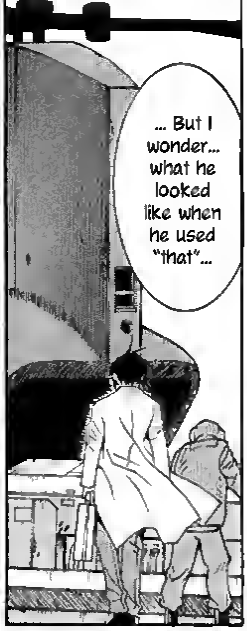
SHIN!
NO!!
DON'T, YOU'LL GET HURT!!
SHIN !!
UH...
UH...
PIN
...It's a sedative
It'll ease the pain a bit... or it should.
Wh... what's going.. on...?
You too.

The military should've known that it would've had an effect on you guys too.
I don't know any of the specifics though.
...Seems it's our military's anti-plant weapon.

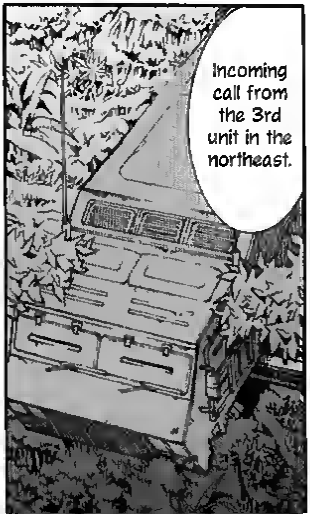

.....
.....
...I'm sorry...


I'm sure...
...he's the one... behind this... anyway.
There's no reason... for you to apologize...

I'm...
Kind of curious...


... But I wonder... what he looked like when he used "that"...

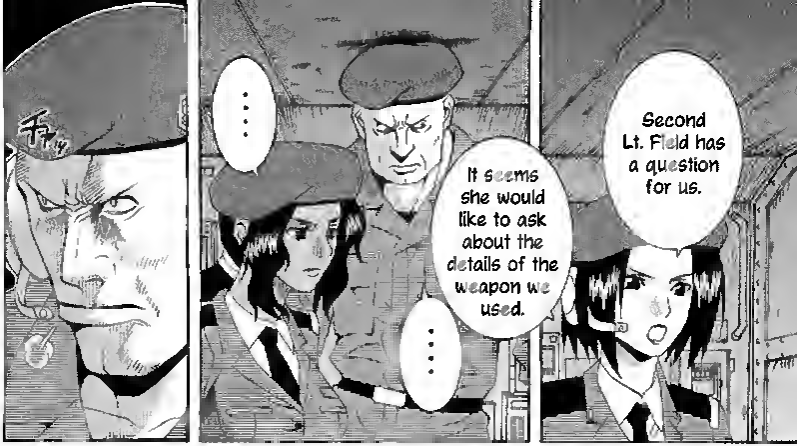
2nd and 4th units are coming up with tactics for the remaining enemies.
Plant enemies are inactive.
1st unit in the north-west,
Searching for remaining enemies.
12th unit-


Incoming call from the 3rd unit in the northeast.

The Arethusa in various areas are settling down.
So you've returned, Major.
What's the situation?

What began in North America is even outside of South America and spreading throughout various areas around the world
It seems the hordes of Arethusa are beginning to take on unusual behaviors.

I see...
Wasn't the Doctor with you?
The details are being kept quiet, but he said he'd catch up with us after certain "preparations" were made.
Preparations...?


Second Lt. Field has a question for us.
It seems she would like to ask about the details of the weapon we used.
....
....

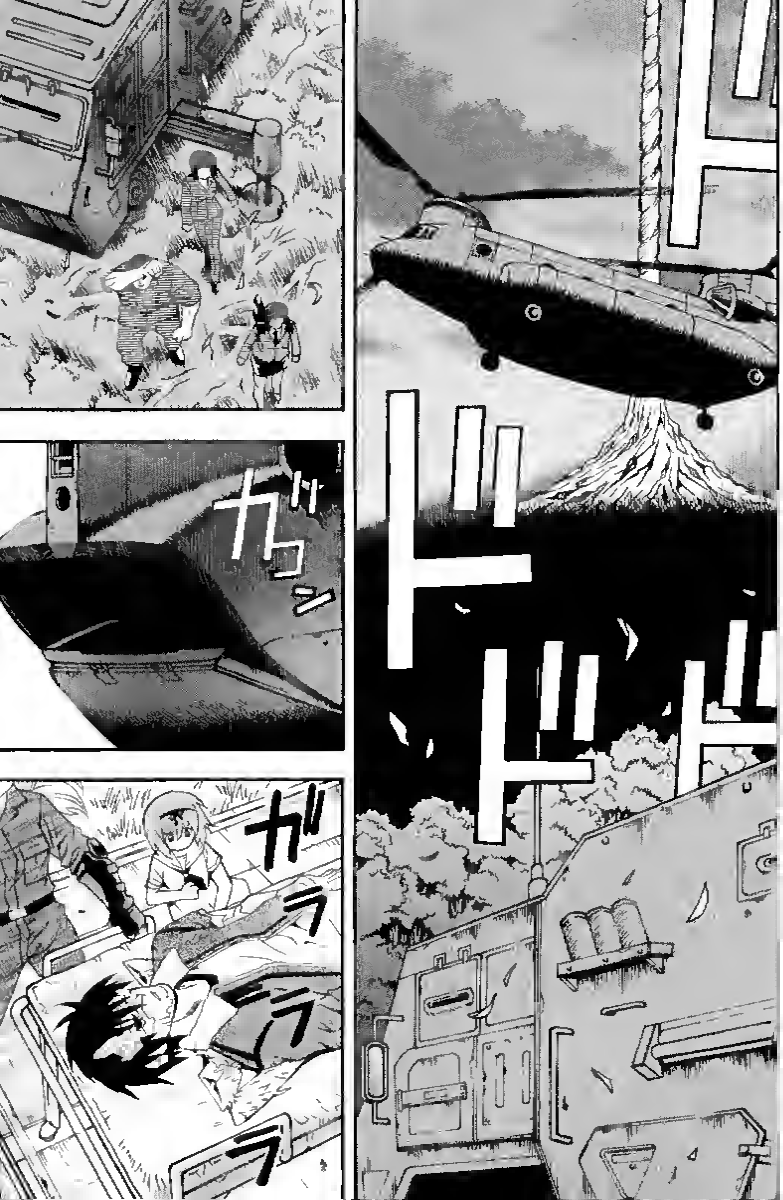
THERE'S A CHANCE WE CAN'T SAVE THESE TWO?!
... THEN...

AREN'T WE IN CHARGE OF KEEPING THESE TWO ALIVE?!!!
WHY DID YOU USE SOME-THING LIKE THAT?!

This is a war.
We can't sacrifice a thousand people just to save one person. That's the bottom line!!
YOU BALDIE!! AFTER COMING THIS FAR TOGETHER...
IS THAT THE ONLY THING YOU CAN SAY?!!
OR IS THIS TEAM...
ENOUGH !!!

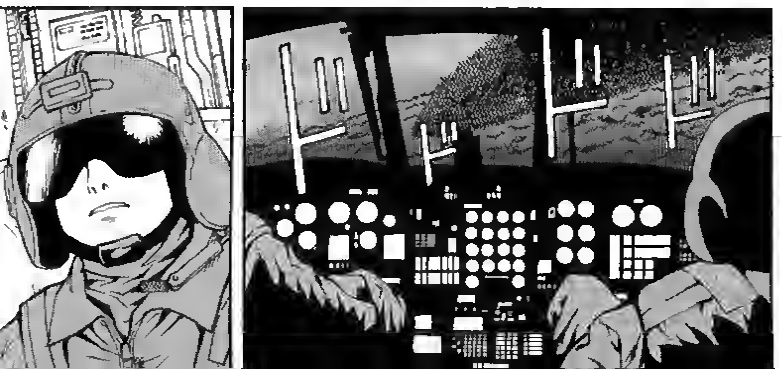
YOU THINK I'D WILLINGLY DO SOMETHING THIS... THIS HEARTLESS...?!!
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT TOOK A LIKING TO THE BOY...?!

.....


ドドドドド
ガコン
ガラガラガラ

……？
トクン

.....
It was so quick...
...is it really all over?



NO WAY...!!
キュ

ゴ
キュ
GUAH ?!!
WHAT HAP-PENED ?!!
RIDICU-LOUS... THAT CAN'T BE!!
THE GUARD WAS TAKEN OUT!! IT'S AN ARETHUSA!!
キュ
キュ
キュ

...
Actually, it's possible
The type of plants that are active in the multi-worlds...
They switched their RNA with the other plants...
I can't believe they can do this in such a short amount of time-
DOCTOR SOUMA!!
Is our cargo safe...?! How's our helicopter doing...?
WORRY MORE ABOUT YOURSELF!! WE SHOULD HEAD BACK FOR NOW!!
...We can't.
WE COULDN'T ELIMINATE THE ARETHUSA!!

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU,
THERE WON'T BE A SECOND CHANCE !!!!
If we let this chance slip by,
I'll... really be...
.....
-Hey, pilot, can you fly this thing...?
I can manage!
It seems the cargo is safe too.

Don't worry about it.
I'm deep in this too now.
...I'm sorry.
-ALL RIGHT, AVOID PROVOKING THE ARETHUSA WHILE YOU FLY!
I'll stick around until the end.
ボゴッ
ズズッ

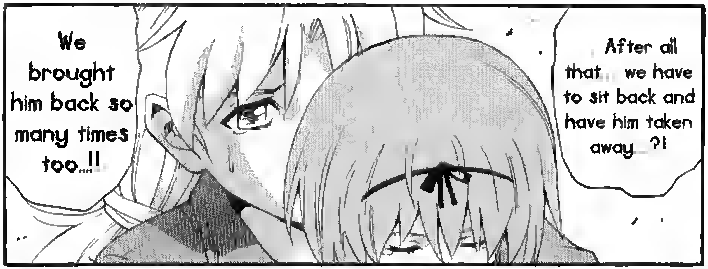
AAAA
AAAA
AA!!!
Ahh...
Guh...!
BOY
?!!
カル
SHIN!!
HAA
HAA
HAA

My... brother.
Take care of...
Ah... uh...
... You look like... you're still alright...
AN-CHAN!!
Don't say that...
FORGET ABOUT THAT...!!
I'd be pretty badass...
... If I had something clever to say right now.
キチ
チ

...
See
Ya...

SHIN, WAIT!!

두두두두


We brought him back so many times too...!!
After all that... we have to sit back and have him taken away...?!

IS THAT THE ONLY THING YOU CAN SAY?!!
YOU BALDIE!! AFTER COMING THIS FAR TOGETHER...
ENOUGH !!
Shut up. Baldie!!
YOU THINK I'D WILLINGLY DO SOME-THING THIS... THIS HEART-LESS...?!!
Mm...
So heart-less...
CHROME DOME-!
OCTOPUS! NAKED LIGHT BULB!
BA-LDIE, BALDIE, BALDIE

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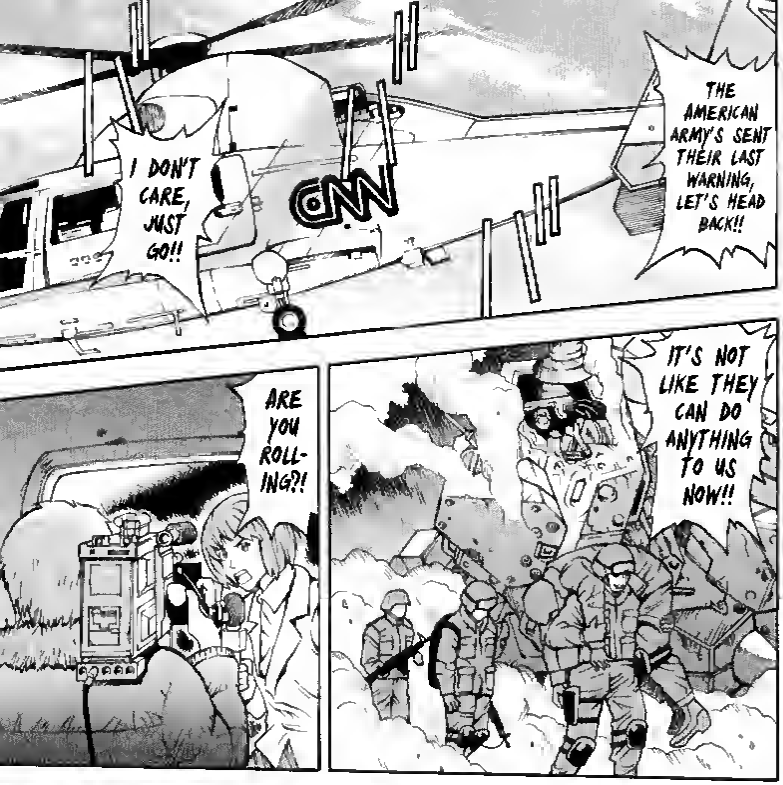
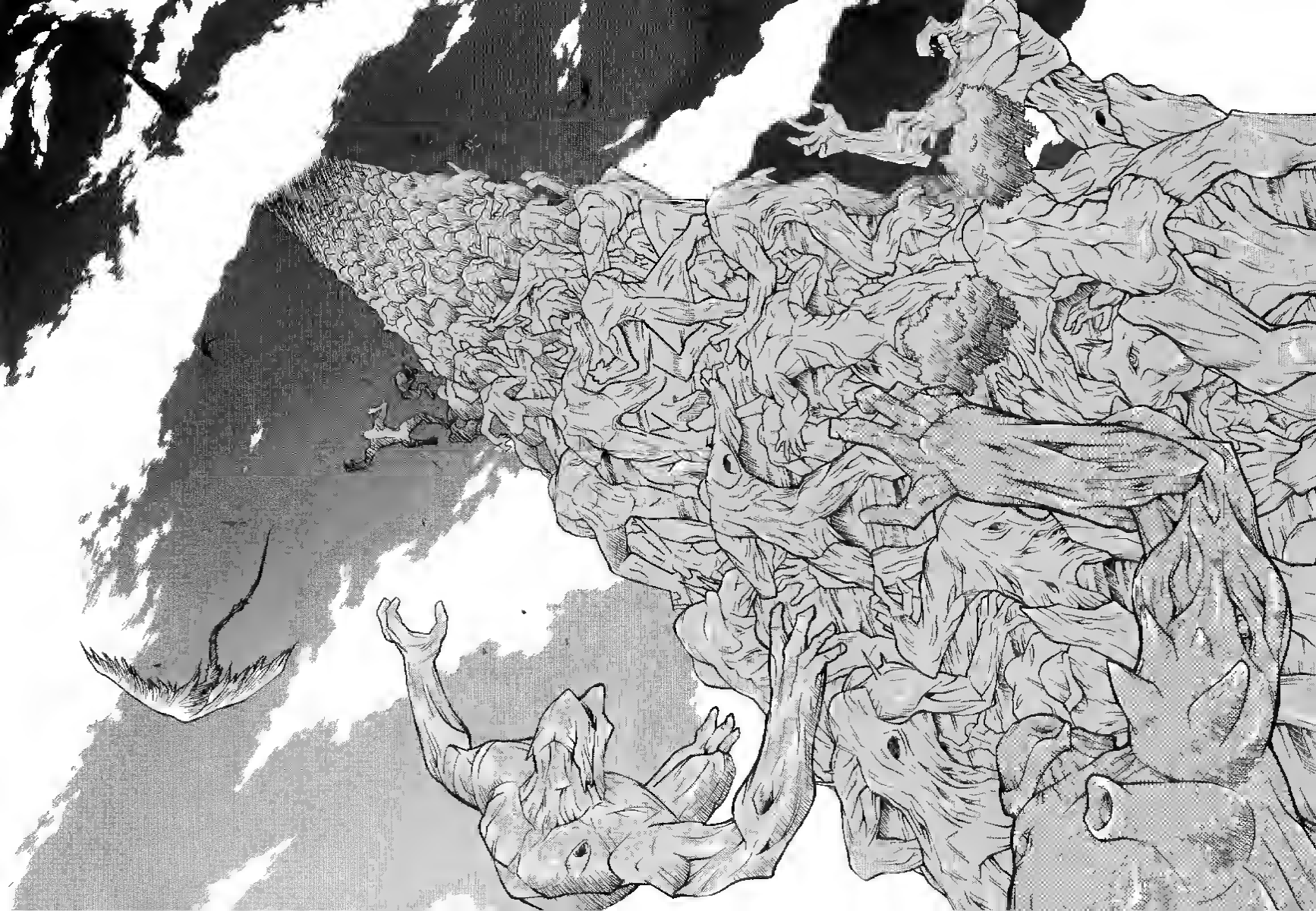

I DON'T CARE, JUST GO!!
THE AMERICAN ARMY'S SENT THEIR LAST WARNING, LET'S HEAD BACK!!
ARE YOU ROLL-ING?!
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY CAN DO ANYTHING TO US NOW!!

Please take a look!!
The Arethusa are pushing the American army we so pride aside...
And they're all heading for the dome!! What is going on here-



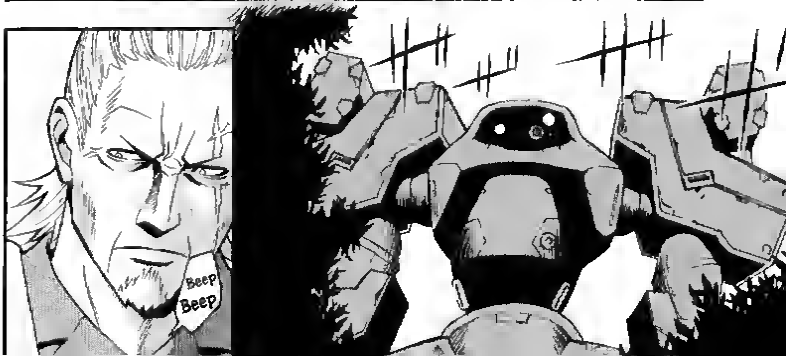
I can't tell how many there are!! The Arethusa throughout the world are gathering around the various domes.
The situation has escalated to an all out conflict, but regardless, the military is overwhelmed by their numbers,
類は裁かれる

And now, all we can do is watch as the events unfold!!

ISN'T SHIN HERE?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
He turned completely into an Arethusa and is amidst their group now...
The boy... -Shin,
...no, we have time.
We can still determine his location.
...SO WE DIDN'T MAKE IT HERE IN TIME...!
.....

Then, worst case scenario-
……!
Is that really, Our only option?
It would be a miracle if it worked out...

It's not completely impossible.
This isn't the time to be worrying.


Beep Beep

CALL
I've decided to resign from Megalith effective today.
What is it, boss?
Come now... that's so sudden
With today's rampage of the rebel army, the American army has begun to move.
This will probably be our last conversation for a while.
I doubt you've left anything for them to pin on you.
Obviously not.
But I'm dealing with Robby here. I don't intend to take him lightly.

That's quite cliched.
Aren't there any more interesting options?
I don't mind if you wish to act as if it were all my doing and you knew nothing about it.
Do as you like.
And my unit?
Let me think about it while I escape from this jungle.
Think carefully. Then-
Then, rather than a severance pay, would you like to come with me to my next place of employment along with that new model MT?
I'll pay you much more.
. . . . . .
No, wait.
?

Lastly, I'd like to hear what the goal of those trees is.
I just can't comprehend their actions
I didn't expect something like that would bother you.
I'm sure you have an answer
.....
If you're simply talking about the answer,
Then I had it from the beginning.
... excuse me?
I became too involved.
I've lost a number of excellent subordinates, and was placed in danger because of this case. -And for future reference as well, I'd like to know the answer.

Normally, immobile plants use the wind, water, animals and such to carry their seeds as far out as possible in search of favorable lands.
"SEED PROPAGATION"
This time around, they were doing the same thing, just on an interplanetary scale.
It's an overwhelmingly large scale, but the answer itself is simple.

A need...
They probably just did it because they found the means to do so.
Why go so far? Where was the need for such extremes?
Earth would actually be a paradise for the plants under their rule.
The "opportunity",
And "means". The ones who gave these to them,
Was us humans.
The changes we caused in the environment,
Change in Earth's environment
Opposition
"Unusually Large Increase in Plant Connections" (To Control Carbon Dioxide Levels)
Secondary Result
After obtaining consciousness, appearance of "Arethusa"
Humans implement a plan based on theory to leave earth.
?
Having created such a chain reaction.
Outcome for those who remain on earth.
?

Life, in other words,
Is nothing more than a search for a way to continue on until the moment of extinction. Now and forevermore.
They haven't reached their final destination, nor is it possible for them to do so.
This is still a waypoint.
Ken pointed out the clue from the beginning.
"The Great Principle of Life", the survival and propagation of self. Self-organization.
But-

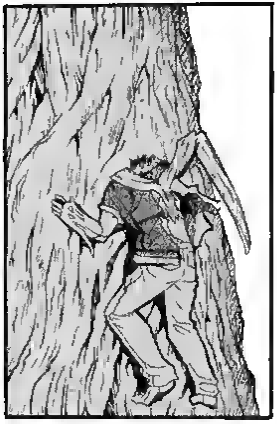
In the truest sense, they're moving ahead of humans.
They will move out to space.
This may be just one end of a larger repeating cycle.
No... if we assume, as one theory states, that Mars is the origin of life,

In ancient times

They traversed the planets

And took root in this land

And now, once again-



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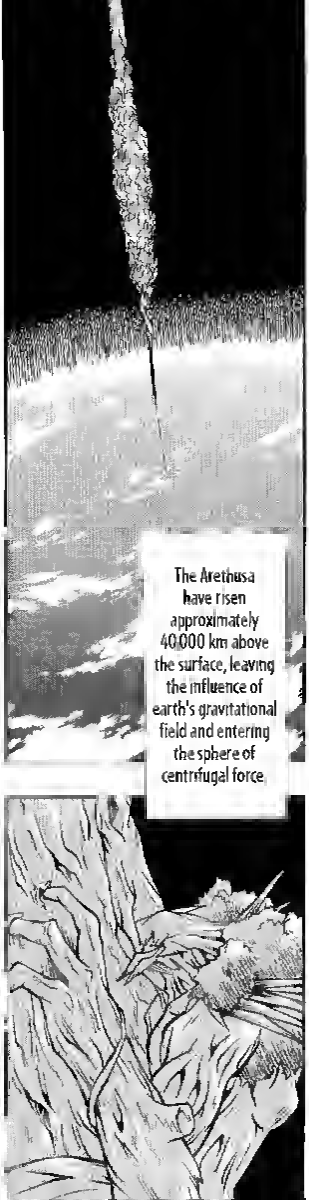
Five months later.
The Arethusa have risen approximately 40,000 km above the surface, leaving the influence of earth's gravitational field and entering the sphere of centrifugal force.

And one month after that

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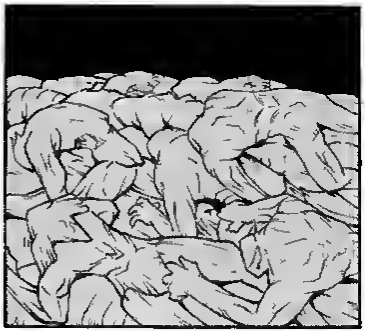

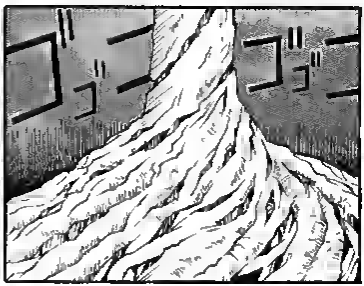
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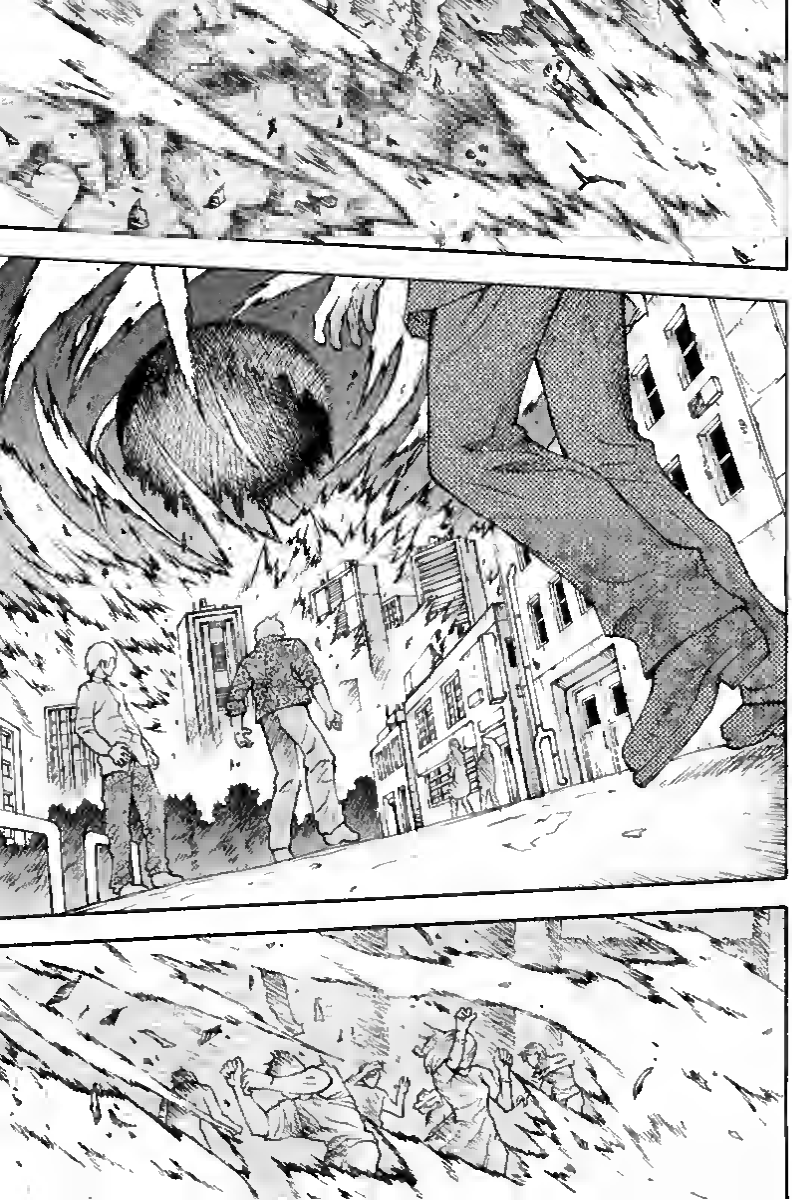
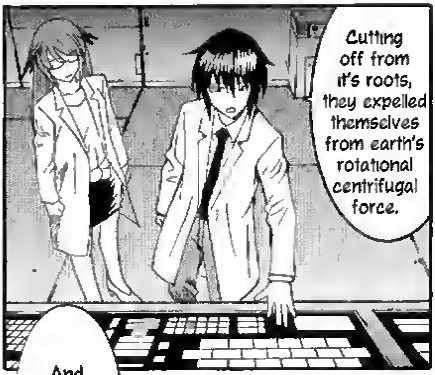
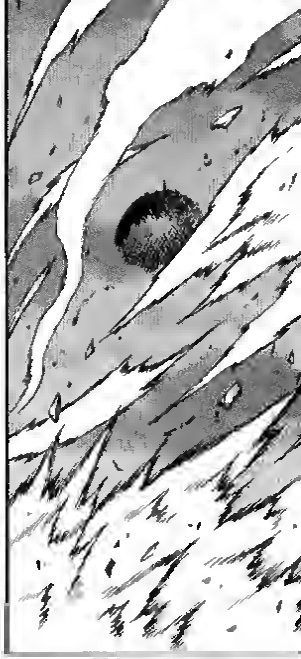
FREE!

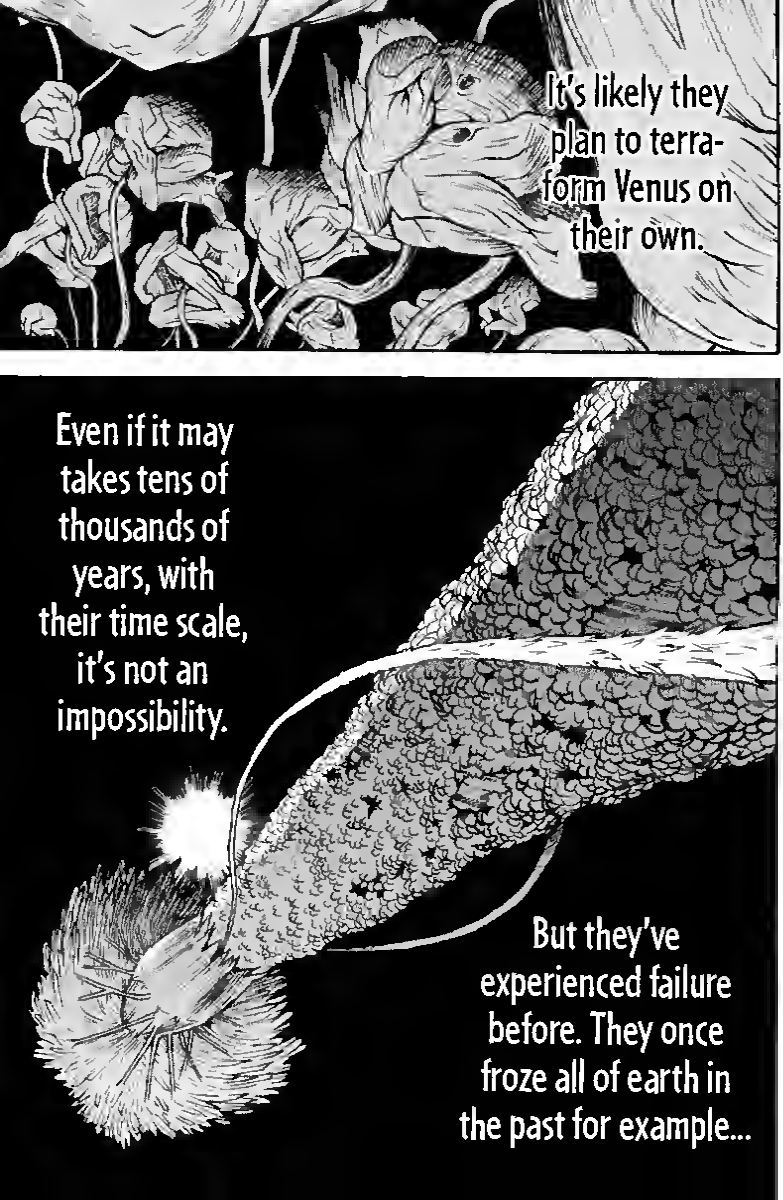



Cutting off from it's roots, they expelled themselves from earth's rotational centrifugal force.

And their destination-

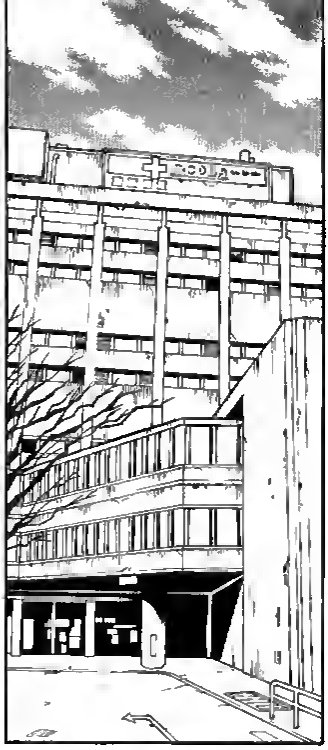


... is Venus.

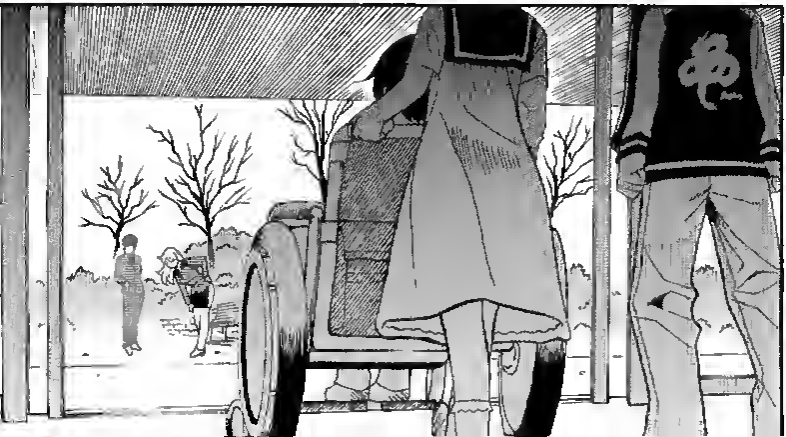

It's likely they plan to terra-form Venus on their own.
Even if it may takes tens of thousands of years, with their time scale, it's not an impossibility.
But they've experienced failure before. They once froze all of earth in the past for example...

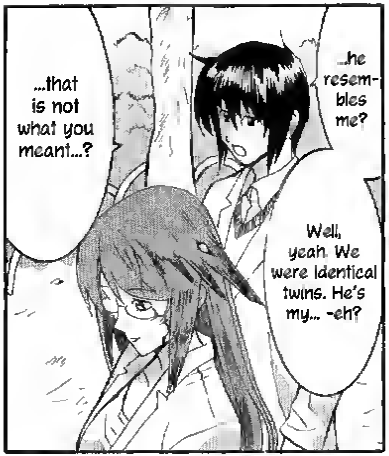
So they "split their roots".
Those that would stay on earth,
And those that would move out to space.
They also took into account the seeds of us animals- our genes.
Because they need someone to consume the oxygen they release...
What kind of world
Will they create?

……
コ



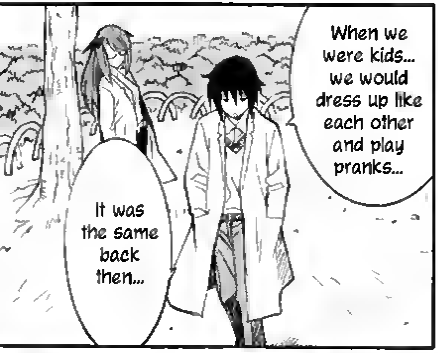
How long are you going to space out for?
They're out.




...he resembles me?
...that is not what you meant...?
Well, yeah. We were identical twins. He's my... -eh?

IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS HAIR. STUPID HAIR!!
...what are you talking about?

Seriously... it reminds me of things I don't want to remember...
SHUT UP!! I TOLD YOU, DON'T CALL ME CUTE!!!
But it was so cute!
Ah!...


When we were kids... we would dress up like each other and play pranks...
It was the same back then...

But you know
I can't believe he's advanced his research far enough to create a spare clone body for himself.

If we hadn't changed places back then,
It makes me wonder... would we have gone down different paths?

The more pressing matter-
The transplant was a success... but, that doesn't mean I was able to completely extract the plant..

Don't you think?
Is that we didn't have enough time for production.

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VERDANT LORD

by Hiroshi Takashige & Atsushi Soga

If you like this manga please support its creators by buying a copy of the original book.

Verdant Lord v9 Ch 60

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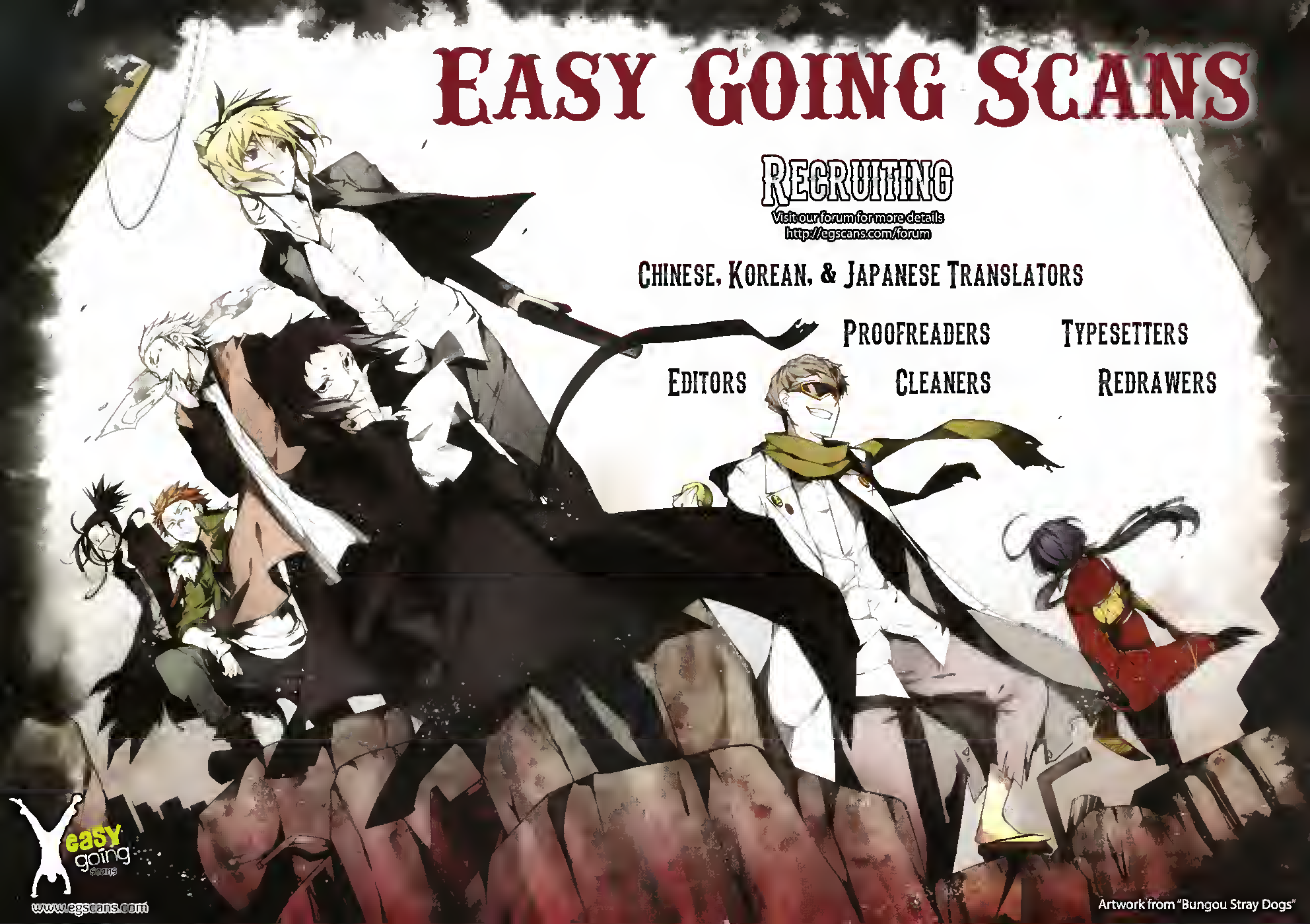
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"VERDANT LORD". COMPLETE

Something of an afterwords:

Well- I guess this is it. We've come to an end.

Unfortunately, this ended up finishing and I don't really feel like I got to completely wrap everything thing up.

This manga's predecessor seemed to be popular as well, but I couldn't finish it because of the magazine's circumstances. And so, this was a second attempt at that work. Now, because the publication is being suspended, as a writer, I had no choice but to end this story. It really is unfortunate.

But it's thanks to all of you, such a mundane work has made it this far.

After being told there would be half a year left, I was sure that I'd be able to to finish writing this story, but in the end, I wasn't able to get all of my ideas out. If I only had another volume, no, half a year, I'm sure it would've be enough.

Being unable to finish my work under such conditions really made me realize how powerless I am.

My editor arranged for a move to another magazine, but because the story is already nearing its end, it wouldn't get the proper attention. So I figure I have no choice but to give it up.

But if Magazine Z were to continue publication, I was thinking of making a sequel.

It's too bad that I can't, so I'll jot down the outline at the end.

I hope to pick up the brush again someday, but for now, I'll be putting it away.

Thank you to the head artist, Soga-sensei, Takano-kun and Fukuchi-kun for your involvement, and to all the editors for their hard work. I hope we can all work together again on another project.

Also, thank you so much to Moreau-sensei for doing me a huge favor and adding color (?) to a mundane story. ([LOL])

Verdant Lord Part II

The plants steadily retreat.

Earth itself begins to return to its former state.

Several years later, those left on earth are the ordinary plants of old, and the animals, which includes mankind. In addition, there were those that were called halves- like Shin, they were a new hybrid form of mankind that were partially plants. Will these new hybrid lifeforms, born from the plants' survival plan, become the new rulers of earth?!

Please look forward to Verdant Lord Part II "New Mankind Arc (Temp)."

Author / Takashige Hiroshi

Afterwords

They ended up giving me a page. I don't know why I'm doing this now, but I'm going to throw out some background information for the supporting characters. It's not everyone though. (By the way, this is just what I imagine and nothing more.)

Sarah Her hobbies are horseback riding and shooting (only as a sport though). At first, I was thinking she would cling to Dr. Lowe. After finding out she had a thing for Shin, I started looking at her differently.

Lucy She's secretly an extremely ambitious person, always aiming higher. She's not fond of bouncy hair like Sarah's, which is unbecoming of a soldier.

Donna She's a mother of two. She's gutsy.

Lowe He has the unhealthy habit of smoking, despite being a doctor. He's a hard to describe character with inconsistencies and weaknesses. He's German-American.

Getas He's from Singapore and of mixed ethnicities. It doesn't seems like he had an affluent upbringing. He rose up due to his talents.

Robby There was a note to make him an "ordinary old man". It's actually scary for someone with such an important position to have a normal atmosphere around them, right?

Colonel There isn't a dramatic story behind the scar on his face. A gun accidentally discharged and a part hit him.

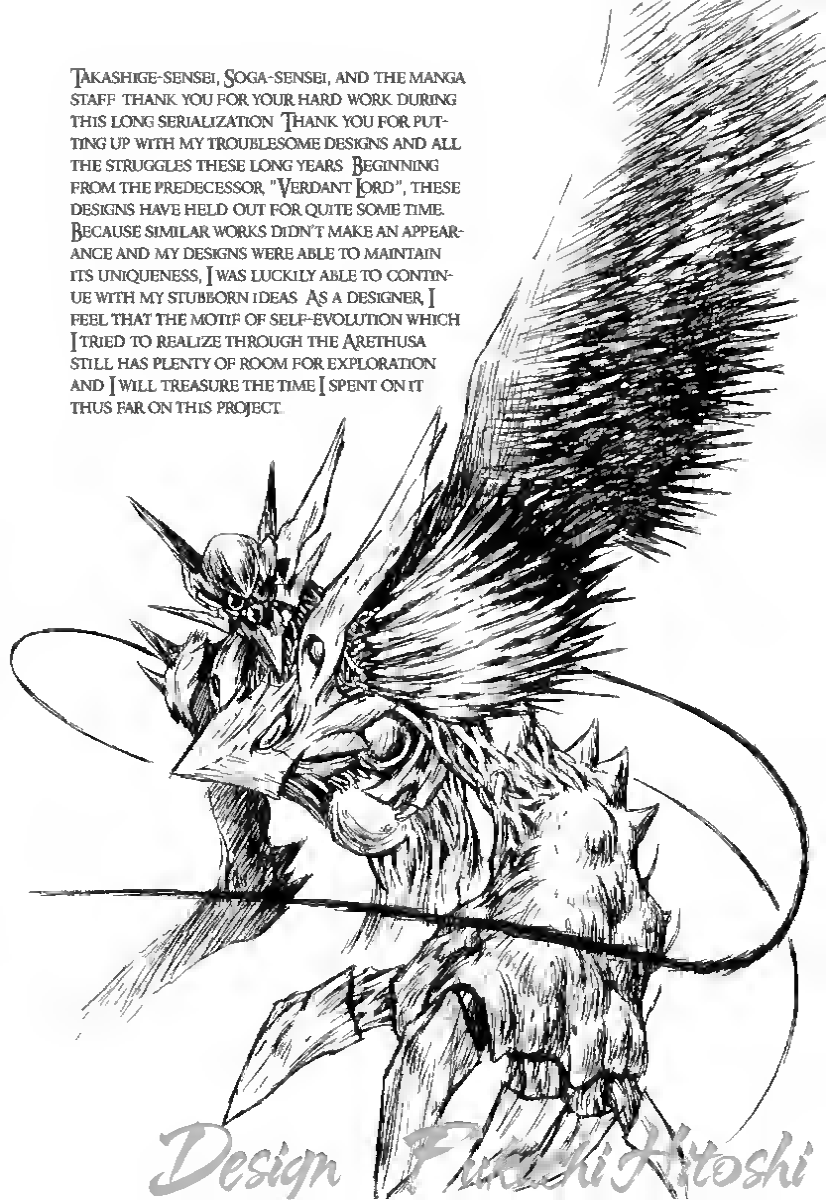
Kelly Was there a change in Ken in the last scene? Maybe because of the change in Kelly...? It might play role in the "next possibility".

Captain Under the cover, he's actually not bald! Looks like this

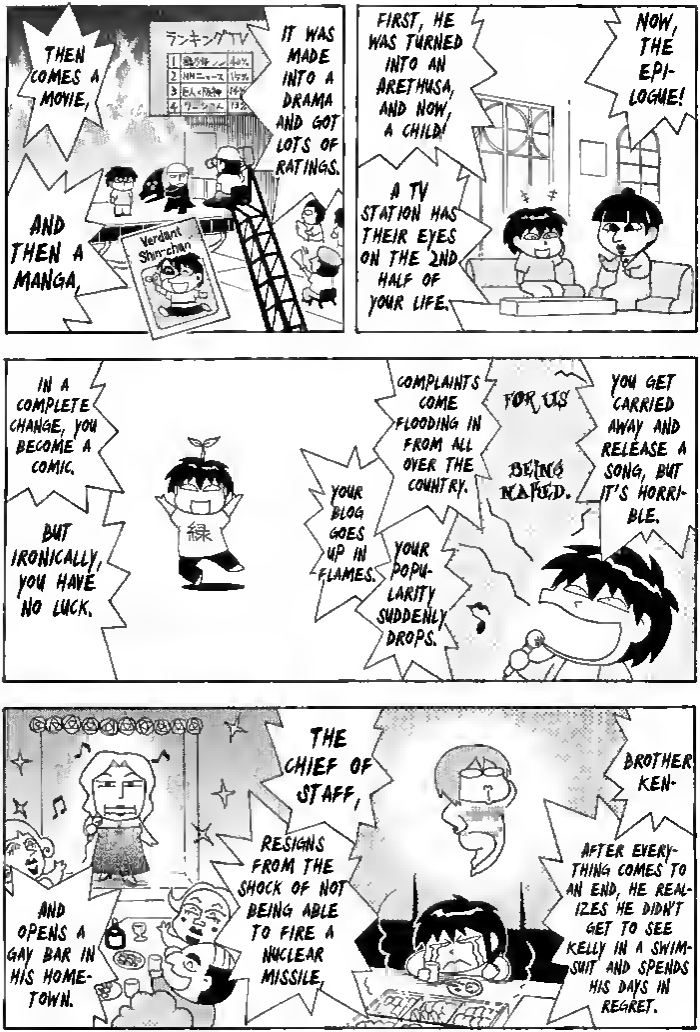
Finally, to Takashige-sensei and everyone who worked on this manga, and to you the reader, thank you very much. I'll see you again somewhere!

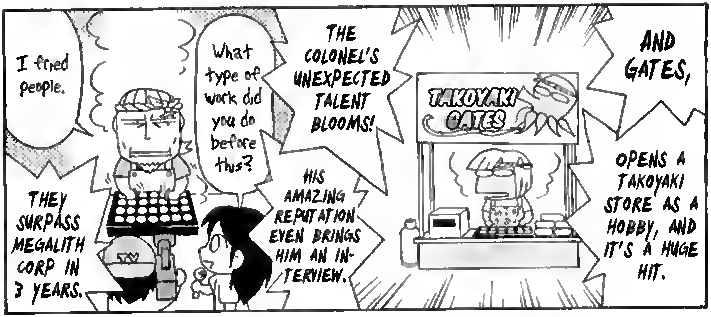
2009.2.17 Saga Atsushi

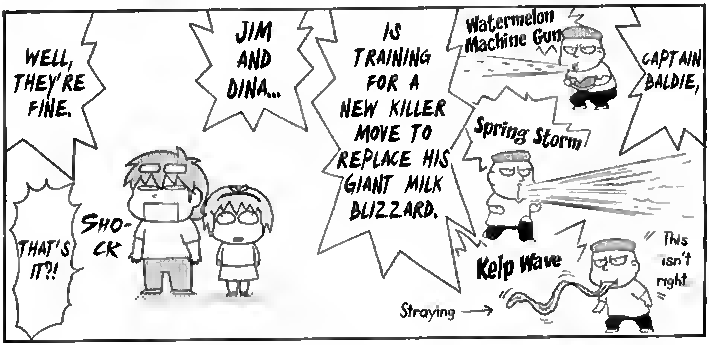
Takashige-sensei, Soga-sensei, and the manga staff thank you for your hard work during this long serialization. Thank you for putting up with my troublesome designs and all the struggles these long years. Beginning from the predecessor, "Verdant Lord", these designs have held out for quite some time. Because similar works didn't make an appearance and my designs were able to maintain its uniqueness, I was luckily able to continue with my stubborn ideas. As a designer, I feel that the motif of self-evolution which I tried to realize through the Arethusa still has plenty of room for exploration and I will treasure the time I spent on it thus far on this project.



Design Furuichi Hitoshi

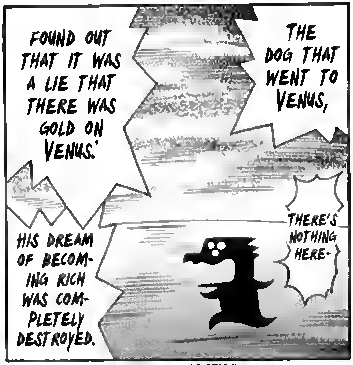

THEN COMES A MOVIE,
ランキングTV
IT WAS MADE INTO A DRAMA AND GOT LOTS OF RATINGS.
AND THEN A MANGA,
Verdant Shin-chan
FIRST, HE WAS TURNED INTO AN ARETHUSA, AND NOW, A CHILD!
NOW, THE EPI-LOGUE!
A TV STATION HAS THEIR EYES ON THE 2ND HALF OF YOUR LIFE.
IN A COMPLETE CHANGE, YOU BECOME A COMIC.
BUT IRONICALLY, YOU HAVE NO LUCK.
緑
YOUR BLOG GOES UP IN FLAMES.
COMPLAINTS COME FLOODING IN FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.
YOUR POPU-LARITY SUDDENLY DROPS.
FOR US
BEING NAKED.
YOU GET CARRIED AWAY AND RELEASE A SONG, BUT IT'S HORRI-BLE.
AND OPENS A GAY BAR IN HIS HOME-TOWN.
THE CHIEF OF STAFF,
RESIGNS FROM THE SHOCK OF NOT BEING ABLE TO FIRE A NUCLEAR MISSILE.
BROTHER KEN-
AFTER EVERY-THING COMES TO AN END, HE REAL-IZES HE DIDN'T GET TO SEE KELLY IN A SWIM-SUIT AND SPENDS HIS DAYS IN REGRET.


I fired people.
What type of work did you do before this?
THEY SURPASS MEGALITH CORP IN 3 YEARS.
THE COLONEL'S UNEXPECTED TALENT BLOOMS!
HIS AMAZING REPUTATION EVEN BRINGS HIM AN INTERVIEW.
TAKOYAKI GATES
AND GATES,
OPENS A TAKOYAKI STORE AS A HOBBY, AND IT'S A HUGE HIT.



If only Magaz ne Z didn't go down...
And I was supposed to have a huge role as the savior of mankind in the next volume...
AND VERDANT MAN,
IS HATING K. DANSHA.'
END
Brazilian swimsuit

*T/N: THIS MAGAZINE'S PUBLISHER IS KODANSHA.


FOUND OUT THAT IT WAS A LIE THAT THERE WAS GOLD ON VENUS.'
THE DOG THAT WENT TO VENUS,
HIS DREAM OF BECOMING RICH WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED.
THERE'S NOTHING HERE-

*T/N: THE KANJI FOR VENUS IS "GOLD STAR"

みどり　おう　ヴァーダント・ロード
緑の王 VERDANT LORD 9

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by Hiroshi Takashige & Atsushi Soga

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